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SPECIAL REPORT

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FRED McMAHON ON
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**PAMELA WALLIN ON
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STRATEGY**



Catherine Ashton on brokering peace between Serbia and Kosovo

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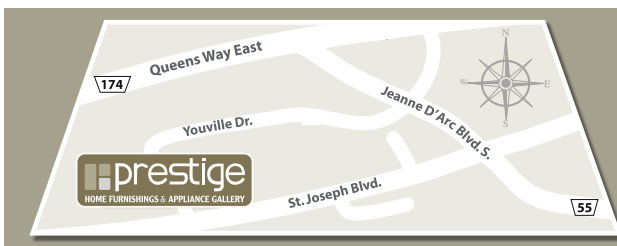
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Volume 24, Number 3

Table of CONTENTS

DIPLOMATICA |
Political cartoons from around the world 8
Fen Hampson and Derek Burney on Star Wars 12
Questions Asked with Indian envoy Nirmal Verma 14
Notes from the Field: Médecins Sans Frontières 19
Good deeds: Ambassadors help Rockcliffe Foundation 20
Diplomatic Agenda: Cuba’s ambassador on reforms 21
Trade: Guatemala, Czech Republic and Morocco 23
Debate: Frank McMahon on EU economics 27

DISPATCHES |
Special report/ The business of travel
Our biggest Top-10 list yet: 100 attractions in all, including best sacred sites, best educational sites, top ancient ruins, entertainment attractions, hard-to-visit UNESCO sites, historical/modern landmarks, most threatened world heritage sites, best natural sites, most-visited Canadian attractions and top world-heritage sites in Canada. 32

Senator Pamela Wallin on defence strategies 55

EU foreign rep on peace between Serbia and Kosovo 57

DELIGHTS |
Books: Beverley Baxter and other subjects 58
Entertaining: Korea’s culinary yin-yang 63
Canadiana: The forgotten war, remembered 66
Wine: How wine scores work and what they mean 67
Residences: Chile’s charming abode 68
National Day listing 73
Envoy’s album 78

DIGNITARIES |
New arrivals in the diplomatic corps 74

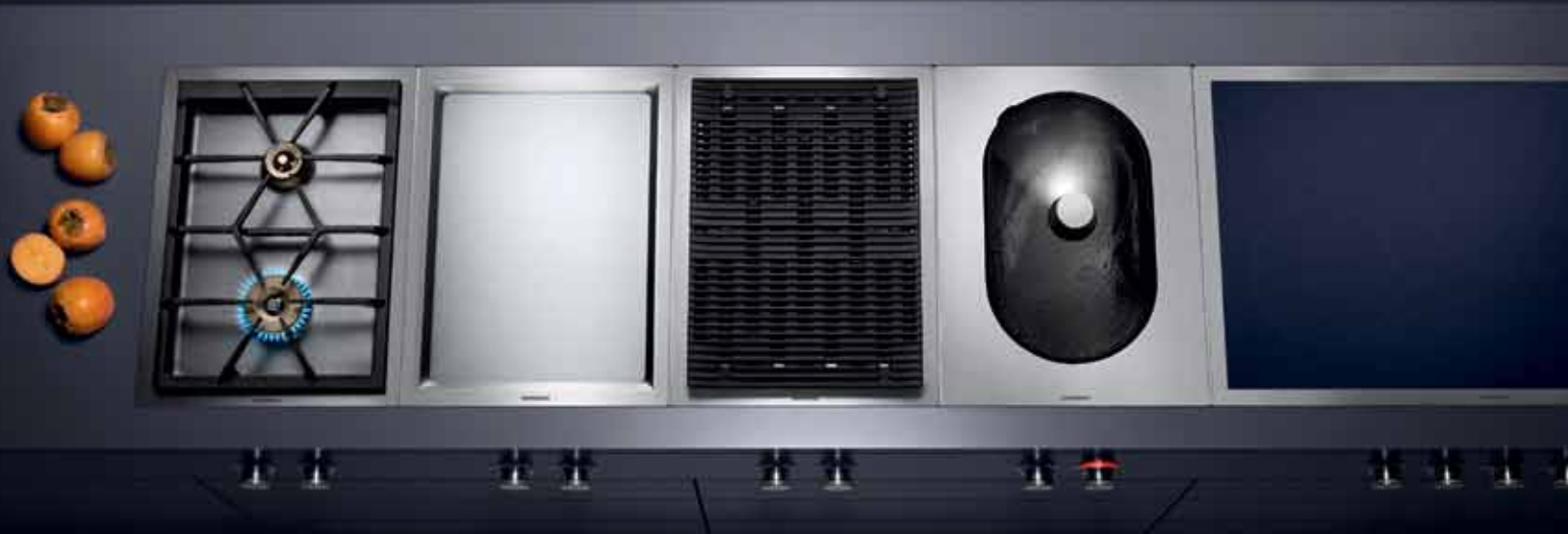
DIPLOMATIC LISTINGS 82

DESTINATIONS |
Taiwan awaits 87
Costa Rica — awash in nature 90

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JENNIFER CAMPBELL

Oh, the places you'll go!

With summer holidays upon us, *Diplomat* is taking a bi-focal look at travel in its July issue. Tourism, so intensely personal and memory-filled, has another equally intense side: big business.

The World Tourism Organization estimates that total receipts for international tourism in 2011 topped \$1 trillion. As an export — yes, tourism is considered an export — it ranks fourth after fuels, chemicals and food and ranks first in many developing countries.

Our cover package looks at the many ways of ranking attractions and regions. We decided to take a broad approach by offering 10 lists of 10 places: Top global entertainment attractions, historical and modern landmarks, ancient ruins, natural sites, educational sites, sacred sites, most threatened heritage sites and difficult-to-reach UNESCO heritage sites. Our last two are Canadian — most visited Canadian attractions and top world heritage sites in Canada. Armed with this list, you'll have no reason not to travel this summer.

Also in our Dispatches section, we have an assessment of Canada's defence and security policy by Pamela Wallin, who has chaired the Senate national security and defence committee. And we have a personal story from Catherine Ashton, the high representative on foreign affairs and security policy for the European Union. She writes about how she brokered ongoing peace talks between Serbian Prime Minister Ivica Dacic and Kosovo Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi and about her dreams of long-term peace between those two countries.

UP FRONT

Australia's Great Barrier Reef — the largest living structure on Earth — graces our cover and it appears on our Top-10 list of the world's best natural sites. Our travel package begins on page 32 and includes a total of 100 places to see.

Up front, we have political cartoons from around the world. Fen Hampson shares his space with Derek Burney, once Ottawa's man in Washington. The two discuss the future of ballistic missile defence.

Also in *Diplomatica*, I interviewed Indian High Commissioner Nirmal Kumar Verma, who talked about his naval career and his plans for his time in Ottawa. We also have trade winds pieces from diplomats representing three countries from three different continents (South America, Africa and Europe), and an economics piece on the causes, problems, and possible solutions for the troubled EU and its currency, the euro, by the Fraser Institute's Fred McMahon.

In *Delights*, books columnist George Fetherling brings us a buffet of summer-reading books, ranging in topics from Beverley Baxter, Joseph Kennedy and pirates to the dangers of strong central governments, the history of guerrilla warfare and the failure of Canada's Cold War civil defences.

Food columnist Margaret Dickenson, who once lived in Korea on posting with her husband, retired ambassador Larry Dickenson, writes about Korean cuisine and, in *Canadiana*, Anthony Wilson-Smith writes about the forgotten war — the one in Korea in the early 1950s. This summer, Koreans and Canadians alike will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the armistice on July 27.

Wine columnist Peter Van den Weghe weighs in on what wine scores mean and writer Margo Roston and photographer Dyanne Wilson take us on a tour of Chilean Ambassador Roberto Ibarra's charm-filled residence.

In *Destinations*, we also have our regular travel section, featuring my impressions of Taiwan (let me know what you think of the snake soup) and Ambassador Luis Carlos Delgado Murillo's description of his nation, Costa Rica — a go-to place for Canadian tourists and one of the world's most natural places, boasting five percent of the world's biodiversity in just 51,000 square kilometres.

Jennifer Campbell is *Diplomat's* editor.



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Fred McMahon



Fred McMahon is Michael Walker Chair of Economic Freedom Research at the Fraser Institute. He manages the Institute's international economic policy research and the Economic Freedom Network of independent think-tanks in nearly 90 nations and territories. Fred is the co-author with Salem Al Ismaily of the *Economic Freedom of the Arab World Report*. He is also co-author of the *Economic Freedom of North America: Annual Report*. He has written three books and articles in many popular and academic publications.

Pamela Wallin



Pamela Wallin is a journalist whose career stretches back more than three decades. Ms Wallin is most recognized for co-hosting Canada AM and later serving as CTV's Ottawa bureau chief. In 2001, she was appointed Canadian consul-general to New York and in 2007, Prime Minister Harper appointed her to the Independent Panel on Canada's Future Role in Afghanistan. She was appointed to the Senate in 2008, and has served as chair of the Senate's national security and defence committee and as a member of the veterans affairs and the foreign affairs and international trade committees. Ms Wallin is chancellor emeritus of the University of Guelph and honorary colonel of the Royal Canadian Air Force.

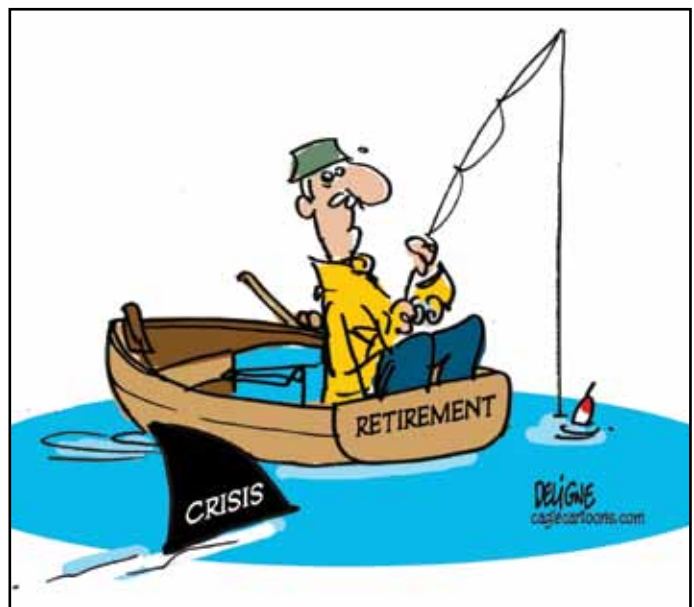
Political commentary from around the world



"Military Budget Cuts" by Frederick Deligne, *Nice-Matin*, France



"Assad and the wonderlamp" by Hajo de Reijger, The Netherlands



"Crisis and retirement" by Frederick Deligne, *Nice-Matin*, France



"The hook of Ambition" by Dario Castillejos, *Diario La Crisis*



"Syrian moderate rebels" by Paresch Nath, *The Khaleej Times*, UAE



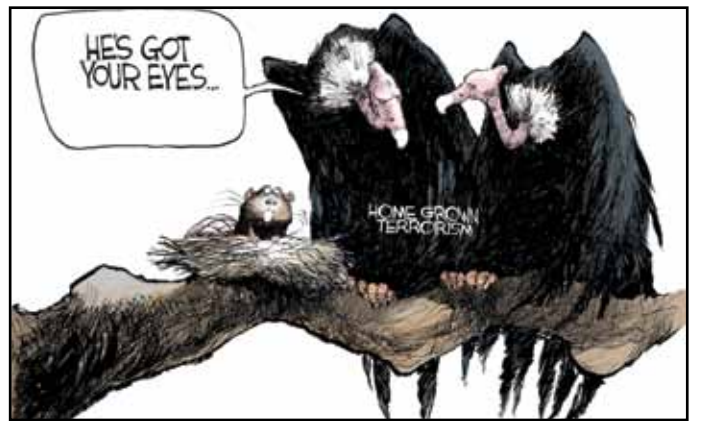
"Apple Ireland" by Hajo de Reijger, The Netherlands



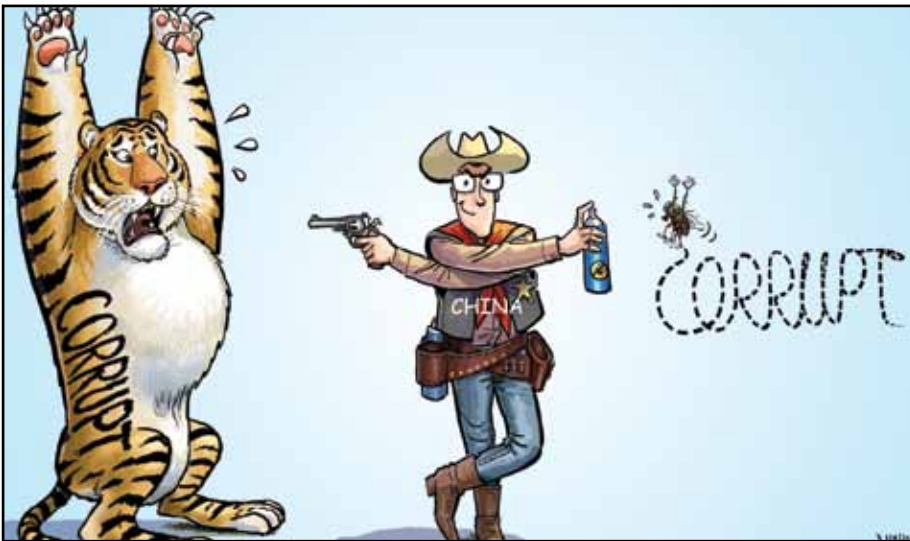
"Russia on Syria" by Paresch Nath, *The Khaleej Times*, UAE



"Made in Bangladesh" by Tom Janssen, Netherlands



"Home Grown Terrorism" by Cameron Cardow, *Ottawa Citizen*, Canada



"Anti-corruption" by Luojie, *China Daily*, China

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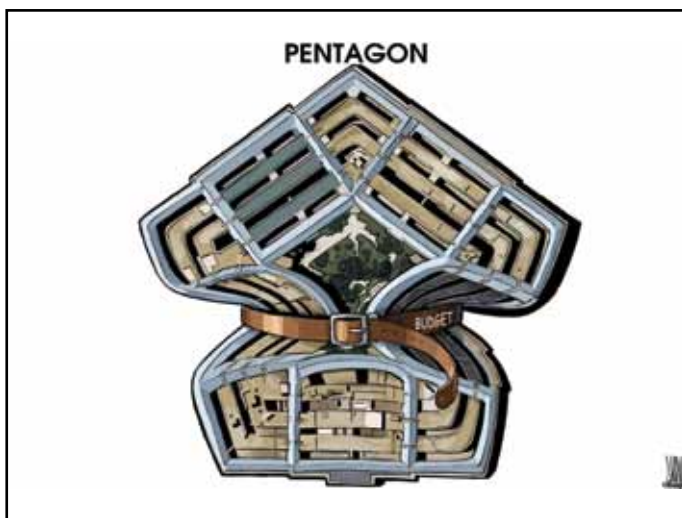


"Comfort" by Cameron Cardow, *Ottawa Citizen*, Canada



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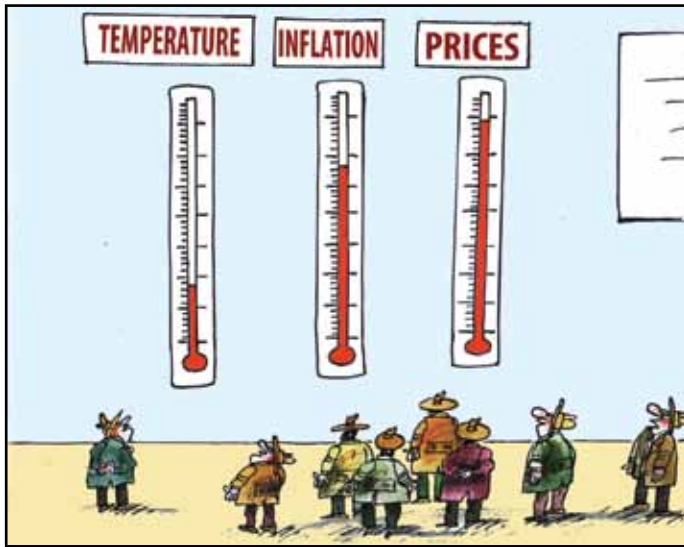
"Internet Sales Tax" by Nate Beeler, *The Columbus Dispatch*, United States



"Pentagon Belt Tightening" by Luojie, *China Daily*, China



"World Water Day 2013" by Manny Francisco, Manila, Philippines



"Prices" by Pavel Constantin, Romania



"Irrational exuberance" by Patrick Chappatte, NZZ am Sonntag



"Farm Lobby" by Bill Schorr, Cagle Cartoons



"Obama's RED LINE in Syria" by Patrick Chappatte, Le Temps, Switzerland



"China and North Korea" by Tom Janssen, Netherlands



"Guantanamo Rubik" by Pat Bagley, Salt Lake Tribune, United States

Joining 'the force' in Star Wars

By Fen Osler Hampson and Derek Burney



Twenty years ago, then-president Ronald Reagan went before the American people to declare his bold new vision of a nuclear-free world. Appearing on national television, he said: "Let me share with you a vision of the future which offers hope. It is that we embark on a program to counter the awesome Soviet missile threat with measures that are defensive. Let us turn to the very strengths in technology that spawned our great industrial base and that have given us the quality of life we enjoy." Thus was born the Strategic Defense Initiative, or SDI, which came to be known as "Star Wars."

Although SDI was something of a Reagan invention, the idea of ballistic missile defence was not new. U.S. defence efforts began in the 1950s with the development of the army's Nike series of surface-to-air missiles to be used to attack Soviet bombers. The air force's competitor to the Nike was the Bomarc surface-to-air missile, which was built by Boeing. In addition to the 14 Bomarc sites in the U.S., there were two in Canada — one at North Bay, Ont., and the other at La Macaza, Que. — with 56 missiles in total.

In a major political crisis that precipitated a federal election and the downfall of the Conservative government of prime minister John Diefenbaker, Canada balked at the prospect that the Bomarc would be tipped with nuclear warheads. However, prime minister Lester Pearson, who won the election, reversed Diefenbaker's decision, thus allowing the nuclear-armed Bomarcs to be deployed on Canadian soil. It was a wise decision and one the Canadian public supported. The missiles stayed here until 1971 when prime minister Pierre Trudeau phased them out.

Today, strategic defence goes under a different name: Ballistic Missile Defense or BMD. Although we are still a long way off from Reagan's vision of a perfect de-



U.S. AIR FORCE

A blast from the past: An artist's conception of a laser satellite defence system, from 1984.

fensive system that would shield North America from an intercontinental ballistic missile attack, there has been major progress in the intervening years in developing new technologies capable of shooting down ballistic missiles.

During the first Gulf War against Iraq — known as Operation Desert Storm — Raytheon Corporation's Patriot missile system was used to shoot down Scud missiles that were launched by Saddam Hussein's army against targets in Saudi Arabia and Israel. However, there was a lot of controversy about the successful "kill rate" of the Patriot system, with some experts (notably at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology) questioning the high interception rates that were touted by the U.S. government. But, as the system evolved, the Patriot's interception rates got a lot better, and during Operation Iraqi Freedom (2003), the second Gulf War, Patriots successfully brought down Iraqi tactical ballistic missiles.

The U.S. has also deployed the Aegis missile defence system on ships to deal with intermediate-range ballistic missile threats. In a comprehensive series of tests, the system has shown its ability to detect, track, intercept and successfully destroy its intended targets. The U.S. also has a rudimentary missile defence system designed to attack intercontinental ballistic missiles, which consists of 13 ground-based interceptors located in Greely, Alaska, and two more at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. The U.S. is now in the process of adding more interceptors

while perfecting its BMD systems.

For many years, Canada has had an aversion to the entire concept of ballistic missile defence on the grounds that such technologies, if deployed, would stoke another arms race. There was also widespread skepticism about the technical limits of ballistic missile defence and its cost.

But strategic defences, even if they are imperfect, can play an important role in deterrence. As U.S. secretary of state Henry Kissinger argued in 1984, when he endorsed the idea of limited strategic defence in the *Los Angeles Times*: "Even granting — as I do — that a perfect defence of the U.S. population is almost certainly unattainable, the existence of some defence means that [an] attacker must plan on saturating [its target]. This massively complicates the attacker's calculations. Anything that magnifies doubt inspires hesitation and adds to deterrence."

Although the logic of Kissinger's case for BMD is persuasive, the nature of the strategic threat has changed. It no longer comes, as it once did, from the Soviet Union, but from an array of the world's smaller totalitarian regimes. As a 2010 review by the Obama administration of the U.S. BMD program made abundantly clear, the threat of nuclear missile attack against North America is growing. Its assessment highlighted the growing threat from North Korea and Iran, which have developed medium-range missile capabilities.

Western analysts have consistently un-

derrated North Korea's ability to acquire and develop weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and missile capabilities. However, there is a real risk that North Korea may one day be able to put a nuclear warhead on a missile that would be capable of striking targets in the United States, though it still has some distance to go in missile accuracy and intercontinental delivery capabilities. Iran is a threat, too. It has the most extensive inventory of short- and medium-range missiles of any developing nation in the world, including its Shahab-3 and Ghadr-1 ballistic missiles, which can strike any target in the Middle East, including Israel.

A "thin" ballistic missile defence capability could provide much-needed protection against a North Korean missile attack or an attack by some other third party, or even an accidental missile launch. It would also, in Kissinger's equation, seed doubt in an attacker's mind about his ability to successfully launch such an attack.

In a world in which missiles can be fired across oceans and from one continent to another, geography makes Canada a target whether Canadians like it or not. The flight path of any missile fired at North America from North Korea (or

perhaps even one day, Iran) would take it over Canada, especially if it were directed at cities on the U.S. eastern seaboard, such as New York or Washington, D.C. North Korea clearly doesn't have that capability now, but one day it could. A missile could easily land on a Canadian city, either by accident or design.

In 2005, the Liberal government of Paul Martin, through foreign minister Pierre Pettigrew, rejected an offer by the Americans to join their missile defence program, apparently because the U.S. was unwilling to give Canada the kind of guarantees it sought over how the architecture would be defined. As a consequence, however, the opportunity to rebrand Norad — the North American Aerospace Defence Command — into a meaningful security instrument of the 21st Century that would deal with the full spectrum of threats to the North American continent, including ballistic missiles, was missed.

National security should be the foremost priority of any government and undergirds "peace, order and good government." The risk of nuclear proliferation has grown in this century and it comes not just from North Korea, but other radical regimes. New initiatives are already

under way to quash the threat from terrorists, including the homegrown variety. Far more lethal, however, is the looming missile threat against which Canada has no practical defence other than the hope that the United States will act in its own interest and defend us against an attack, accidental or otherwise.

That is simply not good enough. The best antidote to the antics of North Korea is, as Nicholas Eberstadt contended in the *Wall Street Journal*, a "threat reduction strategy," — a combination of sustained military and civilian actions and not a repeat of offers of dialogue in the face of "bait and switch" extortion demands from North Korea as it attempts to gain rewards for bad behaviour from all-too-gullible western powers.

Fen Osler Hampson is Distinguished Fellow and Director of Global Security at the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) and Chancellor's Professor at Carleton University. Derek Burney is Derek H. Burney is senior strategic adviser for Norton Rose, an international commercial law firm, and a Senior Research Fellow at the Canadian Defence and Foreign Affairs Institute (CDFAI).



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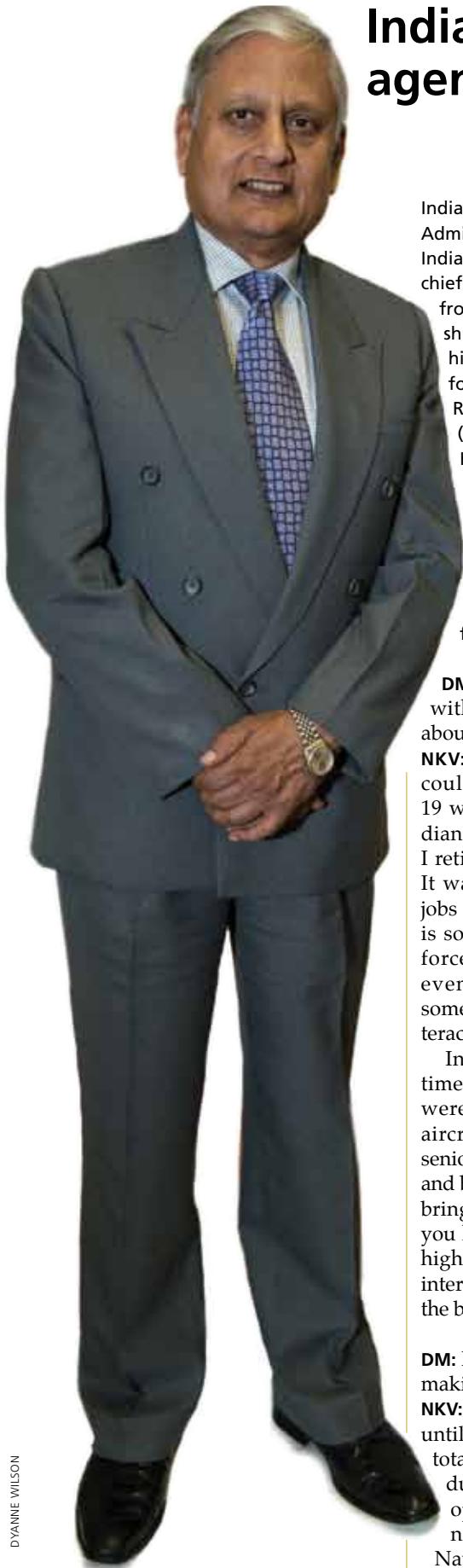
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Indian envoy has pre-ordained agenda for Canada



Indian High Commissioner and retired Admiral Nirmal Kumar Verma joined the Indian Navy in 1970 and became the 20th chief of the naval staff in 2009. He retired from service after commanding three ships, including an aircraft carrier. Over his career, he served on vessels in the former Soviet Union and studied at the Royal Naval Staff College in Greenwich (United Kingdom) and in Rhode Island. He completed post-graduate defence studies at a university in Chennai, India.

He sat down to speak with *Diplomat* editor Jennifer Campbell about his career, his priorities for his post and the challenges his country faces.

DM: The bulk of your career was spent with the Indian navy. Can you tell me about some of your experiences?

NKV: It was the finest career a person could have chosen. I was a little over 19 when I was commissioned to the Indian navy and it was a 42-year journey. I retired from office in August last year. It was very exciting. I had a variety of jobs and the camaraderie that you enjoy is something very special in the armed forces. That's something which exists even between armed forces. There's something special about the way we interact with each other.

In my younger years, I spent a lot of time at sea. The three commands I had were on frigates or destroyers and an aircraft carrier. When you get into the senior ranks, you get into policy-making and building the navy of the future, which brings its own set of challenges because you have to deal with government at the highest levels and see that your service interests are protected and progressed in the best way possible.

DM: How many years were you in policy-making?

NKV: From the time I became a flag officer until I retired as an admiral (14 years in total). One of the things I really enjoyed during my time with the navy was the opportunity I had to train with other navies, which included the Royal Navy. I did my staff college in the U.K.

in 1983 and then 10 years later, when I was a captain, I attended the Naval Command Course at the United States' naval war college. I made many friends, including some from the Royal Canadian Navy and we are still in touch. I touched base again after coming here. Earlier in my career, I had an opportunity to train in the former Soviet Union — I was part of a crew to acquire a ship. That was another experience. This was 1979. Our training was in the Russian language, so that's a skill I acquired.

DM: What are your priorities for your posting in Canada?

NKV: I'd say that fortunately for me, prior to my assuming charge as high commissioner, we had a visit by Prime Minister Harper to India. I was part of the Indian delegation which participated in all the talks and the visit itself so I have an agenda which was defined by the two prime ministers. The areas for co-operation will be in energy, infrastructure, agriculture and agri-foods and education. The first two are particularly important because we will have the youngest population in the world in the next decade and we have 10 million young people joining the job market each year. So we have to create the jobs and to create jobs, you need to have certain prerequisites in place. So energy and infrastructure become extremely important. As far as energy is concerned, we are an energy-deficient country and Canada has an energy surplus. I see an absolute win-win if we can get investments right. It is possible because if you see the price Canada gets for exports to the U.S., it's much less than the east-Asian economies are paying for gas. So if Indian companies have to invest here, in some part of the infrastructure so gas can be brought to India, and allowing for the costs, it should still be possible to do it.

On the energy file, we have set up a ministerial-level dialogue which will be headed by the deputy chairman of the planning commission. We are having a Canada-India oil conference in Calgary and I think it's coming at a very opportune moment because just prior to that, we have all the major oil industry heads from

India coming to Houston for an offshore technology conference. Since the conferences are back-to-back, I think there will be some interesting dialogues, and hopefully deals, which fall into place.

For infrastructure itself, we need something like a trillion dollars worth of investments in the next five years; it's absolutely key. Half of it will be generated by the public sector through domestic schemes where Indian citizens invest and the other 50 percent has to come from the private sector. And it's for this reason that our finance minister has been visiting the financial capitals of the world — he was just in Toronto — to speak to potential investors and to assure them that the timing is right to invest now.

One of the largest infrastructure projects is the Mumbai-Delhi industrial corridor. It's about 1,500 kilometres of space and this is where the jobs will get created. It's not just having jobs available. The population has to be capable of doing those jobs.

Around every corner, there's so much that can happen. There was a time in the 60s that we were living ship to mouth — food shipments came in because of a crisis of basic grains. Then India embarked on the grain revolution and now we're a grain-surplus country.

On productivity, we're doing well, but there are other things that can happen.

On energy, we have sufficient quantities of coal, but beyond that, there is a requirement for technology and ensuring we minimize pollution.

Clean energy itself is going to be something which our government is investing a lot on. India is one country which enjoys 300 days of sun and this is something which needs to be harnessed.

If you look at the insurance sector, there's a tremendous scope for co-operation. One of [Canada's] companies is Sun Life and they have been in India for some time. If you look at the number of advisers they have there, there are many times more than they have in Canada.

Take McCain potatoes. It took them some time to perfect the seed in India, but now that they have, it's being grown. McDonald's India sources all its fries from McCain India. And just by being present there, you see the business opportunities that come your way. Now they're making aloo tikki [a fried potato dish from India] and it's popular across the country. In India, I would say a larger percentage of people will go for this item over French fries. And now, because it's produced



Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his wife, Laureen, visited India in November 2012. High Commissioner Verma was part of the hosting delegation for the visit.



From left, Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his wife, Laureen, are greeted by Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his wife, Gursharan Kaur, at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi, India.

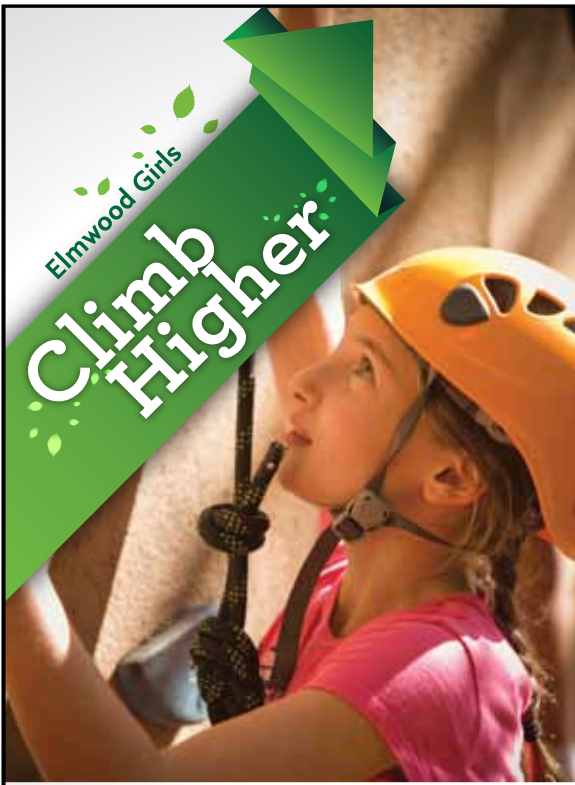
there, the prices are lower.

Doing business in India, you need patience and perseverance. Also, the Indian market is very sensitive to price. If one can figure out what the Indian consumer wants, you have a huge market. For example, Canada's DataWind has come out with a cheap internet device — about \$30 or so. It doesn't have huge computing power, but it gives you the basics. No one wants gold-plated items except for jewelry — my country is gold-hungry.

DM: India, it is often stated, is the largest democracy in the world. How does that distinction factor into its foreign policy?

NV: When India became independent, a

lot of sceptics thought we wouldn't stay together. If you look at the diversity that exists in my country, it's immense. If you travel across the country, you'll find different cultures, different religions, different languages, different cuisines. There's so much diversity, but the one trait that's kept us together is that we've been a vibrant democracy, where people have a voice. The population is very engaged. Today there is a trust across the country to deliver on a plan. Because we are a vibrant democracy, [the government's] voice carries more weight because it's got the backing of 1.2 billion people and, in fact, we have so many visits from presidents of countries near and far who



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want to see how our democracy works. In the last election, 700 million voted through the electronic voting machine. Our process takes a bit longer. To ensure that elections are conducted in a free and open manner, there's security required, but the counting takes place in the quickest possible way. So when people have a voice, they will express their opinions about things they're unhappy about and the system corrects itself.

DM: India has one of the fastest-growing economies and therefore one of the fastest-growing middle classes. How does the country deal with that?

VN: Well, the middle class has aspirations as would be expected. It's a huge



UN PHOTO

Poverty is still rampant in the slums of India.



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consumer market that we're talking about. Currently, it's in the region of 280 million and in the next 15 years, it will be double that number. That's one reason why when we talk about GDP, 60 percent of it is indigenous, products that are consumed within the country. We do export a fair amount, but we're not dependent. There's aspirations for goods, jobs, education, so that the skills are developed. And for that, we must grow at a rate of eight or nine percent [of GDP] per year. If we don't grow at that rate, we won't be in a position to create 10 million jobs per year and in fact, we were doing this at quite a clip for many years until the downturn came. The last couple of years have been bad because some of the reforms that have been contemplated could not be implemented. This year, we've just touched a little more than five percent. Our finance minister is absolutely

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confident that the way the reforms have been implemented, we will grow at six percent, then seven, then eight.

DM: There's this great growing middle class, and well-entrenched democracy and plenty of good things. But there are also challenges — poverty, illiteracy, corruption, malnutrition. What do you see as the country's biggest challenge?

VN: The biggest challenge is to ensure that the sections — those not in the middle class — are looked after. That's why you find the thrust of the Indian government's policy is on inclusive development. It's not a GDP figure just to score marks on how the economy is doing. One hindrance to the reform process has been some of the subsidies we've been giving to the energy sector and other sectors as



UN PHOTO

One of India's challenges is ensuring its growing middle class has the infrastructure it needs to continue to expand.

well. It was felt that the delivery mechanism wasn't the best. We also have the largest project in the world, where each of 1.2 billion citizens will have a biometric card, which will also be linked to a bank account. The poorer sections will get direct transfers into their accounts so they have a certain level of living. In addition, if you look at agriculture, it is 17.5 percent of GDP, but it employs 50 percent of the population. So we know we have to improve the lot of the poor farmer. Agriculture has grown at 3.3 percent per year. In the next four years, the government will take it to four percent per year. There's a rural employment guarantee scheme where we ensure that marginalized society have opportunities for employment. So we think this should make a huge difference.

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We have universal health care, but in terms of the content, there's much to be done.

We have the midday meal scheme so a child who goes to school gets a lunch with the required calories and it plays a huge role in the schools where the poorer people of society go. There was a time that they wouldn't go to school, but now that there's a nutritious lunch, it encourages enrolment tremendously. Every child is guaranteed free education to the age of 14.

In my lifetime, I've seen the ability to find people to do domestic work become more and more difficult, which is a sign of progress. Working conditions and salaries are increasing. They still do it, but at a higher cost.

In every strata of society, education is valued. People want to make sure their families get the best possible education. This is the area where they will scrounge, but make sure their children will get the best education. The same child who sees his parents' sacrifices will look after them in old age.

DM: Can you talk about India's role as a nuclear power?

VN: The world has actually accepted us as a responsible nuclear power with high standards with respect to nuclear non-proliferation. That is one part. The second is with respect to nuclear energy as a power source. This is an area that is important to us because of our power requirements. After a deal negotiated with the U.S., and India now being cleared for nuclear commerce, things have moved along.

We've progressed with respect to a nuclear supply agreement with Canada. We signed the appropriate documents in March of this year. Now we have to follow the steps to ensure it goes into commerce where nuclear shipments from Saskatche-



UN PHOTO

Peacekeepers from the UN military observer group in India and Pakistan, in 2005, observe the line of control that separates the two countries.



SSGT MATHEW HANNEN, USAF

An Indian Air Force 14th Squadron ground attack aircraft.

wan are transported to India. It's a growth sector for us.

DM: How would you characterize India's relationship with Pakistan at the moment?

VN: India has always wanted a peaceful periphery because that's extremely important for growth. Every effort has been made to ensure that our neighbours, as well as India, grow. With Pakistan, there is an issue in Kashmir, where they have certain views. This has led to problems from time to time. We've had instances


where we have militants coming across the border. We had the very unfortunate incident in Mumbai in 2008. There's been quite a bit of proof given to Pakistan about those who may have been involved from within the country. And we've been expecting that steps would be taken to ensure that the people who were so identified are brought to justice. Unfortunately, that's not happened and that is a stumbling block. Nonetheless, efforts are still on to see if there are areas where we can work together. ▣

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'The world is our emergency room'

By Linda Nagy

"My responsibility is to use those opportunities I've been given and try and put some good back into the world," says physician and humanitarian AnneMarie Pegg.

Pegg, who is from Yellowknife, is currently part of a crisis team working in Central African Republic and is one of hundreds of Canadians who work overseas every year with international medical organization Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders (MSF).

In close to 70 countries around the world, MSF staff deliver emergency aid to people affected by war, epidemics, natural disasters and exclusion from health care. They help people survive catastrophic situations, when communities and health structures may be overwhelmed. MSF is a neutral, independent organization, so medical assistance is based on need, irrespective of race, religion, gender or political affiliation.

"My work in the field brings perspective to my work in Canada, and vice versa," says Ms Pegg, "and makes me a better physician in both places."

Roughly nine of 10 MSF field staff are hired from the places where MSF is providing assistance. Aid workers, both local and international, include doctors, nurses, midwives, logistical experts, water and sanitation specialists, administrators and many other experienced professionals.

Doctors and nurses co-ordinate, supervise, train, manage resources and personnel, and set policy, as well as provide some hands-on medical care. Non-medical, skilled support staff ensure day-to-day operations run as smoothly as possible — attending to supplies, transportation, construction, IT, water and sanitation, human resources, finance and general administration.

MSF has a commitment to address the suffering people endure and the obstacles encountered in providing assistance. A core part of the organization's mandate is to speak out, raise awareness and put pressure on decision-makers to bring about change. MSF's witnessing and advocacy work can include calling attention to crises through the media, presenting reports to governments or the UN, and pressing pharmaceutical companies to



Jimale Mohamed, an MSF clinical officer, examines a young patient in the outpatient department of MSF's field hospital in Doro refugee camp in South Sudan.

make essential medicines affordable for patients in developing countries.

Stephen Cornish is the executive director of MSF in Canada. Originally from Ottawa, he has two decades of humanitarian experience, including as head of mission for various MSF programs in Africa, South America and Russia. This spring, he visited MSF projects delivering aid to Syrians caught in the ongoing civil war. Cornish has spoken publicly and written about the catastrophe people are facing inside Syria as well as those living as refugees in neighbouring countries.

"Truly, we are failing the Syrian people," he said in a *Globe and Mail* op-ed piece in May. "The crisis requires political will and leadership on the part of national governments to persuade Damascus, opposition groups and Syria's neighbours to increase humanitarian access and reduce barriers to aid. It also requires more resources to meet the escalating needs."

MSF is doubling its efforts in Syria and surrounding countries and is urging Canada to do its part to ensure humanitarian aid can reach those affected by the conflict. More than 80 percent of the money MSF raises in Canada comes from individual

donors. This support gives MSF the freedom to act quickly and the flexibility to make effective choices about where and how work is carried out.

MSF was founded in Paris, France, in 1971. Today, it is a worldwide movement of 23 associations. An international office, which binds these associations, is based in Geneva. MSF in Canada formally joined the international movement in 1991.

Actions and decisions in the organization are guided by medical ethics and the principles of neutrality and impartiality. Much outreach is done in communities where MSF works, to explain that neutrality means the people who are offering assistance do not take sides, but seek to bring aid to those who need it most urgently. In situations of conflict, MSF does not accept funds from governments or other parties directly involved.

Says Cornish: "I feel fortunate to be in this line of work, to provide a voice to those who may be suffering in silence."

Linda Nagy is a communications officer for MSF. For more information on MSF, email msfcan@msf.ca or call 1-800-982-7903.

NICHOLE SOBIECKI

Dollars raised from dining

There's something special about dining in the home of an ambassador and that's the draw for the Dining with Ambassadors event, which raises money for the Rockcliffe Park Foundation.

Organizers recruit ambassadors and high commissioners to offer private dinners in their homes on a designated night in April, and then they sell tickets to the dinners. At the beginning of the evening, guests assemble for an opening reception at the Rockcliffe community hall, where they are told whose home they'll be visiting for dinner. Then they fan out to the various hosts' residences for the evening.

"A lot of [the diplomats] don't know their neighbours and they often don't realize what interesting people they have living around them," said organizer Elizabeth Heatherington, who works in protocol at Foreign Affairs. "And, it's not been easy for diplomats to get to make appointments with people in government, so this has been a wonderful entrée for them in many ways. They love it and the guests think it's superb to be able to dine in so many countries without leaving their neighbourhood."

The event has happened several times in the past and has grown over the years. Ms Heatherington thinks that's because diplomats don't have the same access they did in the past, and they like to meet Canadians from all walks of life.

"Also, a lot of people in private business are quiet about what they do, but when approached by diplomats, they



United Arab Emirates Ambassador Mohammed Saif Helal M. Alshehhi, shown with former chief of protocol Robert Collette, was one of the hosts at Dining with Ambassadors.

open up because they see opportunities," she said.

In all, 13 embassies and high commissions — Belgium, Chile, Colombia, Egypt, Finland, Germany, Guatemala, Malaysia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates and Uruguay — took part. Some of the missions provided travel information, country statistics and a few even showed short films.

Ms Heatherington said the Ottawans who purchase tickets, many of whom do live in Rockcliffe, always enjoy the evening.

"The community still finds it quite special to dine in a head of mission's residence," she said.

This year's event raised more than \$20,000. The proceeds will be used to buy a pump for McKay Lake to make sure the water is always fresh and doesn't get too low. It will also be used to purchase children's books for the village library, restore village benches, rehabilitate the sports field and to publish newsletters and the book *Rockcliffe Park: A History of the Village*. □



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(1982), Russia (1994), Ukraine
(2004)

Diplomatic relations between Canada and Cuba are more than a half-century old, characterized by respect and sincere dialogue. Canada is among Cuba's main trading partners as seen in tourism numbers alone — more than a million Canadians visit each year, drawn by the beauty of the landscape and its people's hospitality.

However, misinformation about the Cuban reality and campaigns against Cuba by parts of the international media have attempted to distort the perception of what is happening there today.

For several years, Cuba's government and people have been working to increase productivity and motivate workers by eliminating the egalitarianism and improving the redistribution of income within the population. We are doing this while still preserving a social system that looks out for poorer people.

Canada has been supportive of our country, and thus joined 187 countries in a 2012 UN General Assembly vote for "ending the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba." Only the U.S., Israel and Palau voted against this resolution.

Cuba's efforts to improve the lives of its citizens were signalled by a reform guideline approved in August 2011 during the Sixth Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba. It analysed the external factors affecting the country — including the U.S. economic embargo — as well as the internal weaknesses of the Cuban economy. Its strategy was discussed with citizens at more than 163,000 meetings in universi-

ties, workplaces and neighbourhoods.

Reforms were intended to reorganize the way the government works, and to review and re-orient investment.

The plan's emphasis is on agriculture, tourism, bio-

technology, energy and mining and pharmaceuticals.

A review of the tax system and a territorial rearrangement are some of the main changes introduced in this new process, from which all Cuban citizens will benefit. (Notably, Havana province was divided

into two provinces, Mayabeque and Artemisa, to increase efficiency by simplifying the management structures of local governments.

Another measure expected in the coming years is the establishment of a single currency based on labour productivity and an effective distribution and redistribution mechanism. Currently, Cuba has two national currencies, the Cuban convertible peso (CUC), which was implemented as an alternative to the U.S. dollar, and the Cuban peso.

The Cuban economy faces a slowdown in macroeconomic indicators such as GDP and an acute shortage of foreign capital, largely the result of the global economic crisis and the worsening of the U.S. blockade, applied for more than 50 years against Cuba.

So Cuba is planning to lessen its dependence on international markets, increase



Jack pumps in Cuba's Boca De Jaruco oil field.

PHILIP GABRIELSEN



DREAMSTIME

More than a million Canadians visit Cuba's sandy beaches every year.

exports, regulate foreign investment and develop self-employment and co-operatives within the country.

Another measure has been to decentralize the national government's power by providing more independence to local governments to allow them to solve problems better.

In restructuring agriculture, arrangements for people to farm for 25 years on idle state-owned lands are to be extended for another 25 years to increase food production and reduce reliance on imports.

Since the '90s, Cuban farmers have

been developing urban organic agriculture for the production of vegetables and plants in cities. In suburban agriculture, new techniques include the use of organic fertilizers, pest elimination with crop rotation, and the use of renewable energy. It's all part of the government's effort to develop a sustainable economy to support a better quality of life for Cubans.

To ease the burden on the state in some public services, the government has leased barbershops, beauty parlours and taxi services to their existing employees. It also created non-agricultural co-operatives in

service and manufacturing sectors. Today these efforts are working and have the support of the people.

The re-distribution of income, thanks to a state-run economy, has made free health care, education and access to culture and sports possible in an underdeveloped country beset by blockades. Washington's blockade has caused the loss of over a trillion dollars to the Cuban economy and made it difficult to develop efficiently for five decades.

Due to the blockade, Cuba cannot use the U.S. dollar for transactions, so it needs foreign exchange to import any goods, which increases freight and insurance costs. Cuba had to build economic and trade ties with far distant countries such as China, Russia and members of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Americas. We have also imported from Brazil, Spain, France and Angola, among others.

This process of updating the economic model is under way to maintain the achievements of a 54-year-old revolutionary process. Rectifying mistakes while taking into account the interests of the people and the social policies of the 1959 Revolution, have been the cornerstone of the validity of socialism in Cuba. ▣



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Guatemala: Active on FTAs



By Georges de La Roche
Ambassador of Guatemala

Guatemala recently hosted one of the largest investment conferences of its region. The Guatemala Investment Summit was held May 30-31 in Guatemala City as a means to connect banks, financial institutions, service providers, investors, entrepreneurs, government agencies and businessmen. This summit, the most important and biggest of its kind, provided opportunities to create strategic business alliances and learn first-hand about specific investment projects and meet senior government officials as well as primary business leaders from the private sector.

With a dynamic and growing economy, Guatemala enjoys a competitive advantage, given its strategic geographic location between North and South America, with open access to all markets thanks to its Pacific and Atlantic ports. Guatemala has traditionally promoted private investment and its government is committed to providing investors with solid legal certainty, transparency, clear rules and regulations and giving numerous incentives to promote local and foreign direct investment (FDI).

Guatemala has the largest economy of all Central America, holding 38 percent of that region's GDP and boasting a leading local market of almost 15 million consumers, 70 percent of whom are under 30 years of age. Recently rated as the fifth most open economy in Latin America, it has consistently boasted strong macro-economic figures, namely a low inflation rate of 3.5 percent, a public debt ratio of 24 percent, a GDP of close to \$50 billion, a per-capita GDP of \$3,200 and FDI amounting to \$1.5 billion yearly. Although our



Sunrise over Puerto Quetzal, on Guatemala's Pacific ocean.

economy suffered a slight dip during the financial downturn in 2008, it did not go into recession, and it has maintained a positive annual GDP growth of roughly 3.5 percent.

Guatemala's GDP is made up of several segments and has changed considerably since being predominantly agricultural 20 years ago. Now, agriculture is only 11 percent of the GDP, with industry accounting for 21 percent; private services, 16 percent; commerce, 12 percent; public administration, 11 percent; transportation, 11 percent; real estate, 10 percent; financial services, 5 percent; and construction, 3 percent.

The bilateral commerce between Guatemala and Canada continues to grow, representing slightly more than \$500 million in two-way trade. Our main exports into Canada, which amount to more than \$400 million are coffee, sugar, beverages, cardamom and various vegetables and fruits. From Canada, we import machinery and mechanical appliances, paper products, cardboard, fertilizers and transport equipment, totalling close to \$150 million a year.

Guatemala has signed and ratified numerous free trade agreements (FTAs) in the region and beyond. We have FTAs with almost every country in the Americas and are finishing a comprehensive accord with the European Union. Beyond that, like other partners in our region, we are looking towards the Pacific and hope to access the Pacific Alliance and forums such as APEC.

We have been negotiating an FTA with Canada for many years. We have closed negotiations on more than 90 percent of it and we continue to strive for its successful conclusion. My government recently sent Canadian authorities its latest counterproposal regarding sensitive products,

and we hope to soon receive a response. We are also interested in exploring an air transport agreement with Canada (Open Skies) and will benefit from its logistical advantages.

With Export Development Canada's practical financing possibilities, there is much room for investment in infrastructure of all types by foreign private investors, or in the form of public-private partnerships, a growing and increasingly popular form of business investment. Also, with close to 4,000 temporary agricultural workers from Guatemala in Canada, there are opportunities for Canadian companies to look after their banking and insurance needs.

The mining and extractive industry is one in which Canadian firms are traditionally present, yet Guatemala has recently granted exploration and exploitation licences to companies from other countries. With strong and proven reserves in gold, silver, nickel and oil, Guatemala continues to attract prospectors and developers. Another growing investment sector is call centres, with one company in particular recently opening an office in Toronto.

Tourism as an industry continues to be one of our largest, growing at roughly 7 percent annually. With its natural wonders and ecological attractions, the tourism industry generates close to \$1.5 billion for the economy, benefiting all strata and sectors of society. In addition, Guatemala has also recently become a destination for medical tourism, presenting viable, less expensive and safe remedial options.

Georges de La Roche is Guatemala's ambassador to Canada. Reach him at embassy1@embaguante-canada.com or 613-233-7237.

Czech Republic: 'Let's increase trade and investment'



By Karel Žebrakovský
Former ambassador of the Czech Republic

The Czech Republic is a stable and prosperous market economy, closely integrated with the European Union. We have been a member of the EU since 2004; however, we are not a member of the Eurozone yet. The Czech economy, valued at \$217 billion in 2012, is small, open, export-driven and remains very sensitive to the economic performance of Germany, our main export market, which accounts for more than 31 percent of our overall exports, followed by Slovakia, Poland, France and the United Kingdom.

When Germany and other countries in Western Europe fell into recession in late 2008, demand for Czech goods plunged and led to double-digit drops in industrial production and exports. As a result, real GDP shrank 4.7 percent in 2009. The economy quickly recovered in 2010 and 2011 and recorded GDP growth of 2.6 percent and 1.7 percent respectively.

Unfortunately, the Czech economy fell into recession again in 2012 and GDP growth shrank to 1.2 percent due to a slump in domestic demand. Household spending fell 3.5 percent, the first decline since 1998 and business spending dropped 1.6 percent in 2012 due to government austerity measures and the euro area's debt crisis. Foreign trade had a positive effect on the GDP in 2012 as exports, which were up by 4.2 percent, grew faster than imports. Exports were a bright spot in the Czech economy and a testament to continued demand for Czech industrial production despite the slump in the Eurozone. The central bank cut borrowing costs three times in 2012, to effectively zero, and is navigating in uncharted territory. The



Prague is the Czech Republic's picturesque capital city.

bank's forecast shows further policy easing will likely be needed this year.

The car industry remains the largest single industry sector and accounts for almost 24 percent of the manufacturing sector. The Czech Republic produced more than one million passenger cars for the first time in 2010. More than 80 percent is exported. The auto industry accounts for 40 percent of GDP, while services account for 58 percent and agriculture makes up the final 2 percent. Given our dependence on this industry, the major challenges for the Czech economy include dealing with a rapidly aging population, funding a sustainable pension and health care system and diversifying away from manufacturing toward a more high-tech, service-based knowledge economy.

The Czech Republic and Canada have long-standing and close political and economic ties. Canada sheltered many political refugees from Czechoslovakia after 1948 and after 1968. We estimate that the number of people with Czech (or Czechoslovak) roots living in Canada today exceeds 80,000.

Trade between the Czech Republic and Canada is relatively small, but there is a real potential for growth. In 2012, Czech exports to Canada reached \$254 million and imports from Canada amounted to \$166 million. Our top exports include machinery, iron and steel, rubber, electric and electronic equipment, beer and sporting equipment. From Canada, we buy pet food, pharmaceuticals, aluminum, helicopters and parts, medical devices, sport-

ing equipment and agricultural products such as lentils, beans and chickpeas. In 2012, Czech exports to Canada increased by more than 10 percent and Canadian exports to the Czech Republic decreased by almost 4 percent compared to the previous year. Major Canadian investors in the Czech Republic include companies such as Apotex, Bombardier, Magna International, McCain and Borealis Infrastructure.

The Czech Republic is one of the most successful countries in Central and Eastern Europe in terms of attracting foreign direct investment. It boasts a strategic location in the heart of Europe, a stable banking system, low public debt (40 percent of GDP), low corporate income tax (19 percent), low inflation, well-educated graduates, competitive infrastructure, a safe legal framework and a good supplier base. Investment opportunities in the Czech Republic abound in the automotive and aerospace industries, high-tech mechanical engineering, electrical engineering and electronics, environmental technologies, life sciences, nanotechnology, advanced materials, IT and software development.

We are exploring opportunities for Czech exports to Canada in new advanced sectors such as mining equipment and technology, environmental technologies, biotechnology, renewable energy, ICT and life sciences. Czech companies are looking for Canadian partners in those sectors.

Karel Žebrakovský was the Czech Republic's ambassador until May 2013. Reach the embassy at (613) 562-3875.

Morocco: A stable economic gateway to Africa



By *Nouzha Chekrouni*
Ambassador of Morocco

The Kingdom of Morocco is one of the most promising countries in Africa and the MENA region. Not only has it been able to showcase its political stability through the events of the Arab Spring of 2011, but it has also managed to maintain a dynamic economy and generate growth even when its most important economic partner, the European Union, is experiencing an economic slowdown.

As a matter of fact, Morocco registered an average growth rate of 5 percent in 2011. This growth slowed to 3 percent in 2012, but has since been slowly picking up and growth is promising for the future with the kingdom expected to register a rate of 4.5 percent in 2013.

This success has not come without work. Morocco has put considerable effort into reducing its dependency on a single market by diversifying its partnerships. To illustrate this point, it is worth noting that the EU was responsible in the 1980s for up to 70 percent of Morocco's trade. Today, though Morocco has started negotiations on a comprehensive free trade agreement with the EU, trade with the EU makes up 58 percent. That decrease is a result of Morocco's efforts to develop new markets in other regions such as Asia, North America and Africa.

Political and cultural relations between Morocco and Canada are very good, as we have similar views and interests. We are convinced there is room for improvement in our economic relations, as further illustration of the excellence of our bilateral relations.

As readers may be aware, we are currently engaged in negotiations with Canada for the conclusion of a Free Trade



JONATHAN MERCURY

Casablanca is one of the two most important industrial hubs in Morocco.

Agreement. Three rounds have taken place and a fourth one is in preparation.

Currently the total value of our bilateral trade is \$450 million and is predominantly agricultural, as Canada exports about \$300 million worth of products (mainly wheat and other agricultural goods) to Morocco and imports about \$150 million in goods from Morocco. The trade balance is largely in favour of Canada; however, we believe these numbers do not reflect the extraordinary potential of both economies.

Morocco enjoys a diversified and open economy with a GDP of more than \$100 billion. A number of preferential and free trade agreements are currently in effect with several countries, including Arab states, the United States and Turkey. We have also recently started negotiations with the EU for an advanced FTA. The kingdom also has a number of preferential agreements, mostly with countries in sub-Saharan Africa and, more specifically, countries in west and central Africa.

By investing heavily in its infrastructure and bringing ports, highway and railway systems to international standards, Morocco positions itself as a gateway to Africa and as an entry point to a market of one billion customers.

Morocco now has one of the largest ports in the continent, located in Tangiers. After an expansion, it will be able to process nine million containers, which is comparable in capacity to the port of Rotterdam in the Netherlands. We are also in

the process of building a high-speed train connection between Tangiers and Casablanca, the two most important industrial hubs of the country, to facilitate transport for businessmen and investors.

Not only can we provide great service for investors, we are able to accompany them abroad as well. Our banking system is one of the most resilient and efficient on the continent. Moroccan banks are present in 20 African countries and many Moroccan companies are African leaders in sectors such as insurance, telecom, engineering and construction. We thus serve as a natural extension for businesses that wish to extend their activities to new markets.

To conclude, let me summarize our approach in this way: We do not seek investments only, but rather to develop our own national market. We seek ways to benefit the whole region. We strongly believe that growing economies can lead the way to more opportunities and thus foster stability and the creation of wealth. Keep in mind that according to studies, the African continent is expected to experience an annual economic growth of 6 percent to 7 percent in 2014. With a positive demographic pyramid, a growing middle class and rising purchasing power, this continent holds the key to the future growth of the world global economy.

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Saving the Euro by opening the exit door

By Fred McMahon



The fundamental incurable(?) problem

In 1925, Britain's economically inexperienced chancellor of the exchequer, agonizing over the economic controversy of the day, returned Britain to the gold standard. The decision was hailed as a triumph of sound economics, necessary to protect sterling and London's status as the world's financial centre.

Disaster followed. The Great Depression arrived half a decade earlier in Britain than elsewhere. Chancellor Winston Churchill came to regard his decision as the worst of his career — and he made a few doozies during the course of a long life. So it might be a surprise that in 2002 the best minds in Europe launched a similar mistake, the euro.

But how can these be similar mistakes? During the last U.S. presidential race Ron Paul argued that the United States needed to return to the gold standard to avoid financial crises, like the one in the Eurozone.

Britain returned to the gold standard at pre-First World War parity, effectively, US\$4.866 for £1, an overvaluation of the pound to start with. Then bad things happened. Britain's gold reserves were relatively low; France and the United States controlled three-quarters of the world's gold supply. This drove up gold prices and dragged up sterling, now yoked to gold.

Deflation and wage reduction — challenges facing much of southern Europe today — were the only way for Britain to remain competitive, with more deflation needed every day as gold rose in value. Workers resisted wage cuts. British competitiveness collapsed. Unemployment and government debt soared as the economy went in the other direction. Britain dropped the gold standard in 1931,



The European Central Bank is headquartered in Frankfurt, Germany.

What Europe needs to do:

- Develop escape mechanisms from the euro
- Become more Nordic, particularly in southern Europe, by controlling government expenditures, freeing up labour markets, reducing regulation, improving education and raising the retirement age

but by then much of the world was in Depression.

In 1963, Milton Friedman and Anna Jacobson Schwartz wrote a groundbreaking study that fingered the U.S. Federal Reserve as the prime villain of the U.S. Great

Depression. The Fed restricted money supply, just as the gold standard did in Britain, driving both bank collapse and deflation, made all the worse by a deliberate policy to keep wages high to encourage consumption. Artificially higher wages meant many fewer jobs and much less consumption.

The euro is doing the same nasty trick for southern Europe. Media reports focus on the various versions of the private and public sector financial crises in the area, but these have only lifted the veil on the underlying problems — otherwise, these crises would not be near as severe. Instead of being hung on a cross of gold or crucified by the Fed, nations like Greece are hoisted on a petard of euros, which leaves their economies uncompetitive.

Here's why. German wage costs have

Figure 1: Unit Labour Costs: 2000=100
Source: OECD

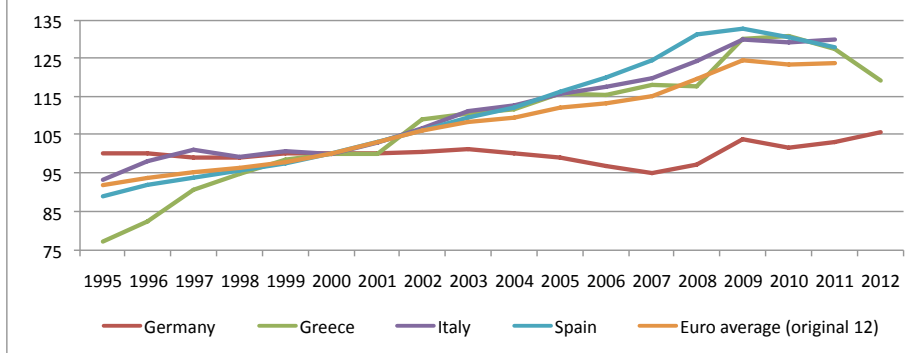


Figure 2: GDP: 2000=100
Source: OECD

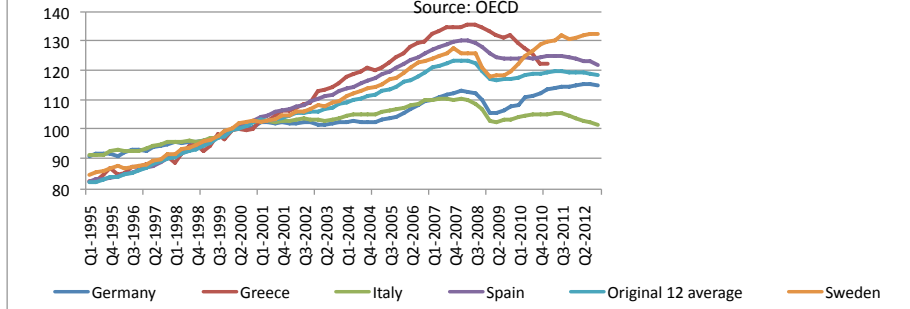
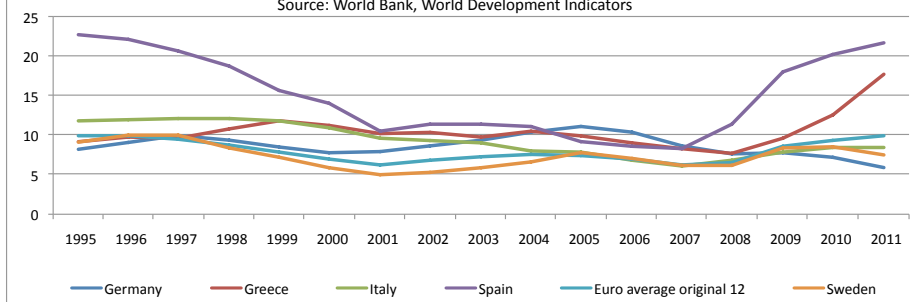


Figure 3: Unemployment rate
Source: World Bank, World Development Indicators



held steady since the introduction of the euro, as seen in Figure 1. Southern European wage costs have soared. Thus, due to wage increases, businesses in southern Europe have been saddled with higher costs compared to Germany, reducing the competitiveness of southern Europe compared to Germany. If two businesses are in competition and one sees wage costs rise and the other doesn't, then the first has a competitiveness problem.

If southern European economies had their own currency, then they could devalue their currency and remain competitive. But these nations are tied to the euro (as Britain was to the gold standard) and thus they cannot devalue compared to Germany. Their only route to a return

to competitiveness is domestic deflation, particularly wage deflation. But this is difficult, as Britain learned when it returned to the gold standard.

The drachma/euro exchange rate was set in 2000; Greece had been late to the negotiations and the rates for the other 11 original members of the Eurozone were set two years earlier, with new euro notes replacing national currencies in 2002. Assume that the drachma, the lira, and other southern currencies were taken into the euro at appropriate values and then consider what has happened since.

Figure 1 shows the evolution of European unit labour cost (ULC), a combination of pay and productivity since 2000, by which point the exchange rates for

the original 12 were set. It immediately becomes apparent there are two Europes — Germany and the rest. While the media tend to focus on Greece and other southern nations on one extreme and Germany on the other, the other original 12 countries, with the partial exception of Austria (where ULC had increased by only three percent by 2007), are clearly much closer to Greece than Germany. Now, France and Italy have huge challenges to meet.

With separate exchange rates, changes in labour costs and other factors that affect the competitiveness of exports would be offset by changes in the value of currencies.

But, just as a Britain yoked to the gold standard in 1925 was trapped with an unrealistic value for its currency, non-German nations are yoked to the euro standard. Because Germany has held wage costs in line with productivity growth and the other European nations haven't, the euro in these nations is effectively overvalued, while Germany has a massively undervalued currency (in some ways, like China's) gridding its competitiveness in Europe and undermining everyone else's.

In 2007, at the beginning of the current crisis, Germany's ULC was actually five percent lower than in 2000, while the southern European economies were nearly 20 percent higher — in other words, a competitiveness shift of about 25 percent with no offsetting devaluation possible. No wonder Germany is the world's greatest exporter, surpassing even China. To become competitive, other European nations would have to undergo massive wage and cost deflation — the same situation Britain faced after 1925.

The consequences have been devastating. Figure 2 shows GDP growth over the period of the euro, with 2000 set equal to 100, and the disastrous falloff since the onset of the crisis. Figures 3 and 4 show the historical data on overall unemployment and youth unemployment. Figure 5 shows the most current data on unemployment, with the original euro 12 average replaced by the current euro 17 as this figure is limited to current data.

The underlying crisis may be spreading. France is in recession. As Europe weakens, so does Germany's export machine. The German economy declined by 0.7 percent in the last quarter of 2012 and grew by only 0.1 percent in the first quarter of this year.

Readers who look at the charts closely will note something interesting happened with the German economy in the mid-

2000s. That, and why Sweden is included in these charts, will be discussed later.

The muddle-through steamroller

When the Euro crisis first struck, Germany took a strict line with Greece, while France sought more help for the struggling EU member. A French friend of mine explained: “You North Americans just don’t understand how generous the French are” ...pause... “with German money.”

As competitiveness problems spread through southern Europe and up to France, there won’t be enough German money to go around. The response has been Germany’s muddle-through steamroller. Germany provides just enough money to handle the various crises, but steamrolls through demands to throw enough money at the immediate problems to solve them or to just let southern Europe go.

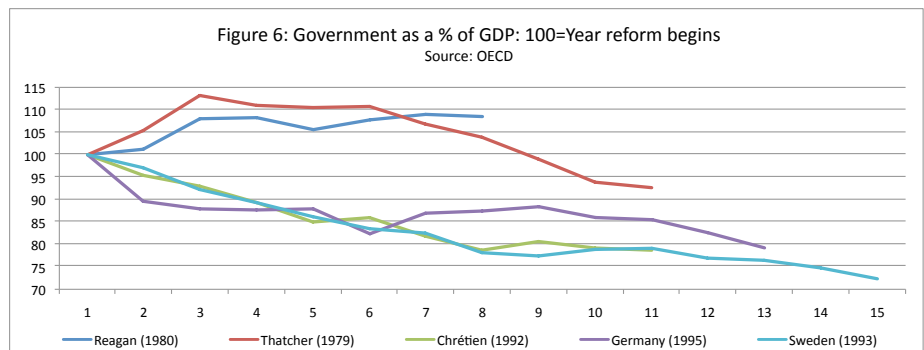
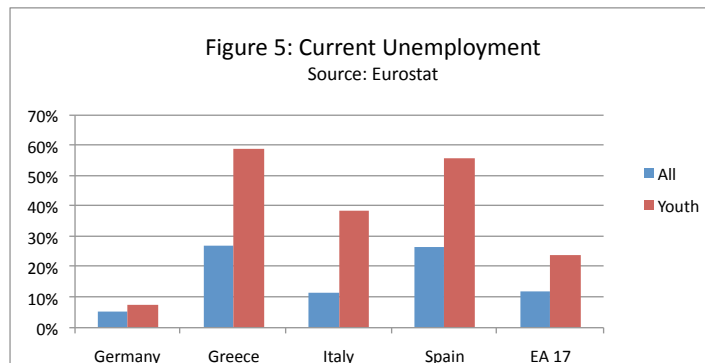
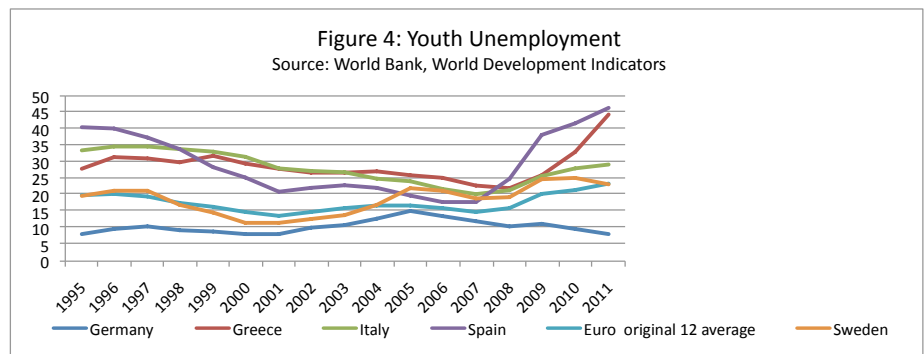
Yet voices are already saying the euro crisis is dissipating. But, at best, this fully applies only to the immediate problems — government overspending and banking crises. These are detached from the underlying problem of this misshapen currency union. Banks can be rescued (or hived off as “bad” banks), creditors shorted and government supported by the European Central Bank, all underpinned with Germany — but none of this solves the imbalance in Europe.

The exit fix

Surprisingly, a move to allow a Euro breakup may be the solution to saving the euro area largely as is.

Economists refer to “optimal currency areas.” Being economists, they seldom mean exactly the same thing by this, but fundamentally it applies to an area with a similar economic structure and wealth, with a free flow of capital and people. It would take far too long to go on in detail, but let’s just say that Germany and Greece no more form an optimal currency area because they are in Europe than do Switzerland and Nepal just because they both have really big mountains.

So long as the current imbalances in competitiveness exist, there are four solutions: 1) Germany can establish a permanently replenished special fund to allow the rest of Europe to buy its goods; or 2) members of the EU may take the necessary reforms to create a viable currency area, with all nations competitive over the long term and increased German consumption; or 3) nations that don’t fit the Eurozone may be asked to leave (or may



themselves ask to leave). Or 4) maybe it’s just time to drop the euro.

The first isn’t going to happen. For the second to happen, it is likely necessary to start on the third, to give more urgency to the need for reforms. European leaders need to begin working on a plan to devolve nations out of the euro when a semblance of stability returns to Europe. It is dangerous to dismantle a building in the middle of a hurricane. But there is some chance of a calm-down. Figure 1 shows signs of adjustment in competitiveness in the south. Already occurring negative growth and soaring unemployment in the south would pre-empt some of the pain of devolution — the hurricane has already made a good start on demolishing the house. In other words, if we get a breather from the hurricane, breaking some nations

out of the EU may become feasible.

Then the question becomes which nations could fit into, if not an optimal currency area, then at least a tolerable currency area. Germany might move closer to the rest of Europe and see domestic consumption rise, given the unsustainability of its export model (like Japan before it and now China), while other European nations could become a bit more German. Or perhaps, Germany, as the outlier, should leave, with a highly appreciated Deutschmark, though Germany’s departure is not likely politically possible.

Oskar Lafontaine, a leftist politician and German finance minister who launched the euro, thinks it’s time to give up on the EU. “Hopes that the creation of the euro would force rational economic behaviour on all sides were in vain,” he said, adding

it was a “catastrophe” to believe southern nations could make the reforms required to be competitive within a single currency. (Evans-Pritchard, 2013)

The political muscle required to enact the reforms necessary to maintain the EU intact would be much strengthened by a credible ejection/withdrawal threat. Even nations loaded with extraordinarily painful and unpopular reforms have shown

champions. Well, actually, despite all you read about the “social democratic” Nordic zone, particularly Sweden, the Nordic countries — including Sweden — have always been free market champions.

Free markets involve much more than small government. They also require the rule of law to protect property, contracting and the politically weak from the politically powerful in the marketplace; sound

Tea Party stuff, like that of Jean Chrétien in Canada, social democratic chancellor Gerhard Schröder in Germany, and both social democratic and centre-right parties in Sweden, albeit rather more enthusiastically under Sweden’s centre-right parties.

Figure 6 sets the size of government to 100 at the beginning of reform: 1979-90 for Britain’s Thatcher era; 1980-88 for the United States, when Reagan was president; and 1993-2003 for Canada, when Chrétien was in power. For Germany and Sweden, 100 is set to 1995 and 1993 respectively as these nations moved to get public spending under control. Since reform in these nations is less tied to particular heads of government, the time series continue through more than one administration.

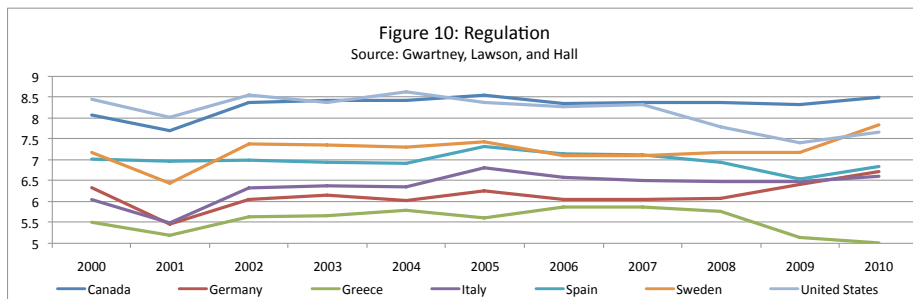
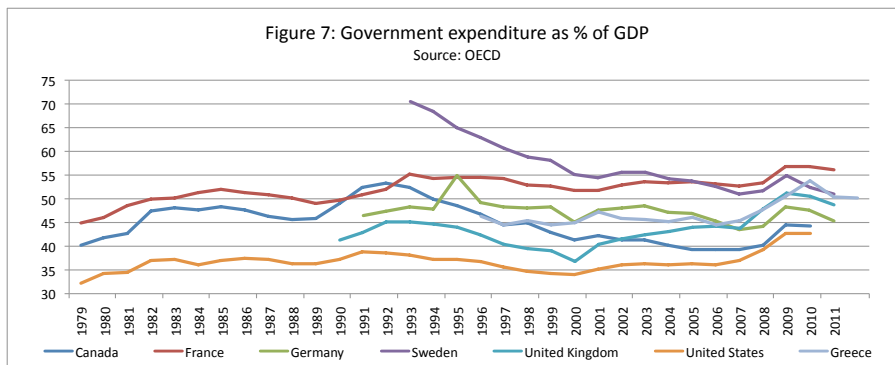
Figure 7 shows government expenditure as a percentage of GDP and includes France as an example of a country moving in the wrong direction. All the nations had an uptick in spending as a percentage of GDP with the onset of the crisis and all have moved to try to control spending, with varying degrees of vigour, since then. Sweden, despite large cuts, still maintains a big government, but one moving in the right direction. *The Economist* suggests that Sweden may soon have a proportionately smaller government than the United Kingdom.

Smaller government also reduces domestic pressure on costs and opens more of the economy to making exportable goods — in other words, it is a step towards greater competitiveness and towards creating a more viable currency area for southern European nations.

A smaller government that can pay its bills is something that should be desired by everyone from fiscal conservatives to Keynesians (or at least those Keynesians who actually understand Keynes). Keynes believed in modest, bill-paying government in normal times, with significant deficits allowed only in strained economic times to spur demand.

Whether Keynesian economics effectively stimulates the economy in a downturn remains a big debate in economics (and I personally don’t think it does) but virtually all can agree that it is better to cut in good times than bad. Governments that spend stupidly during the good times leave the cupboard bare in bad times. So, while short-term prescriptions differ, the ultimate aim should be smaller, fiscally balanced government that leaves room for the private sector to generate prosperity.

While regulation, education, and the



no taste for a EU exit — but many have shown a preference for watering down the reforms. The real threat of ejection could concentrate the mind of those who wish neither to leave the EU nor undertake the necessary reforms to maintain a truly viable currency area.

In other words, developing an exit mechanism is *the* essential reform, the threat of which, in turn, makes more likely the reforms that could mean the exit mechanism is unneeded.

The staying-in fix

Britain on the gold standard was never able to manage the deflation and increased competitiveness required for economic health. However, a number of reforms could help make non-German economies more competitive, draw in investment and help with wage reduction.

The media are full of how badly the European periphery is doing, but one periphery is doing just fine, thank you. The Nordic countries are the new free market

money to defend the value of property held in monetary instruments, including wages; freedom to trade; and reasonable regulations that allow the entrepreneurial spirit of free markets to thrive. In all these areas, except size of government, Nordic nations, and especially Sweden, have been strong.

Size of government remains important. If government is too large, it squeezes out free exchange and entrepreneurial efforts to build wealth. At the height of Sweden’s welfare state, government spending was equal to 70 percent of gross domestic product (GDP).

Government remains too large in much of Europe, and leaving aside the arguments about how much to cut now and how much to cut later, in the long run most European nations would do well to follow the examples of the most radically “right-wing” cutters of government.

No, I am not talking about the milquetoast policies of Margaret Thatcher or Ronald Reagan — I am talking real radical

retirement age are all far too complicated to discuss in detail, it is at least possible to point to the right direction in all three, again with the Nordic states, represented by Sweden, aligned to this direction.

Growth-throttling regulation needs to be brought under control, particularly in labour markets that keep those who most need jobs, particularly the youth, out of work. Figures 8 to 10 explore the state of regulation, though data are available only to 2010. Regulation is scored on a 0-10 scale, with 10 being the most free market-friendly regulation.

For all regulation, Figure 8, as expected from the preceding discussion, Sweden and Germany have started to move in the right direction, while Greece is only getting worse. Figure 9 on business regulation may shock those who have believed the myth of socialist Sweden. Since the early part of the opening decade of this century, Sweden has led our selected group in the friendliness of its business regulation, with, again, Germany and Sweden showing the most improvement and Greece, in this instance, the worst.

Labour market regulation, Figure 10, presents the greatest challenge and opportunity for Europe. Canada and the United States are far ahead in labour regulation, though German and, even more impressively, Swedish reforms are leading to improvements.

Germany's labour market reforms under Chancellor Schröder in 2003 combined unemployment and welfare benefits to reduce incentives not to work and increase incentives to work, perhaps the key part of the reform package and not fully captured in Figure 10. This is politically very difficult, as Canadian politicians who have attempted to reform employment insurance have discovered. Chrétien, so good on this issue, also wanted to be good on this issue, but had to retreat on employment insurance reforms for the 1997 election because of the politics of EI in Atlantic Canada, but it still cost him all but a handful of seats there.

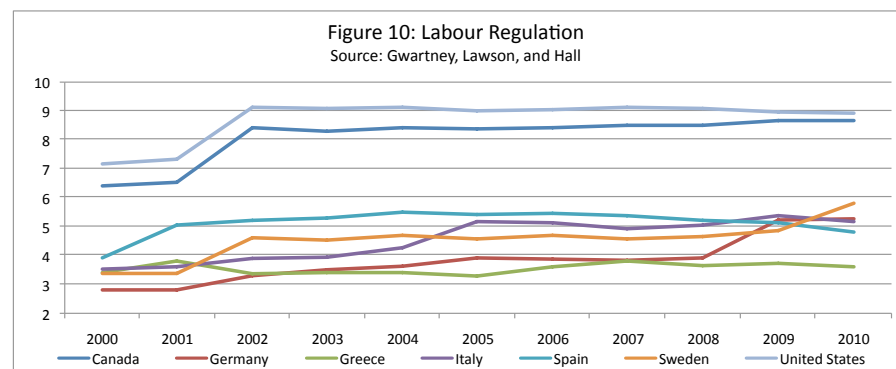
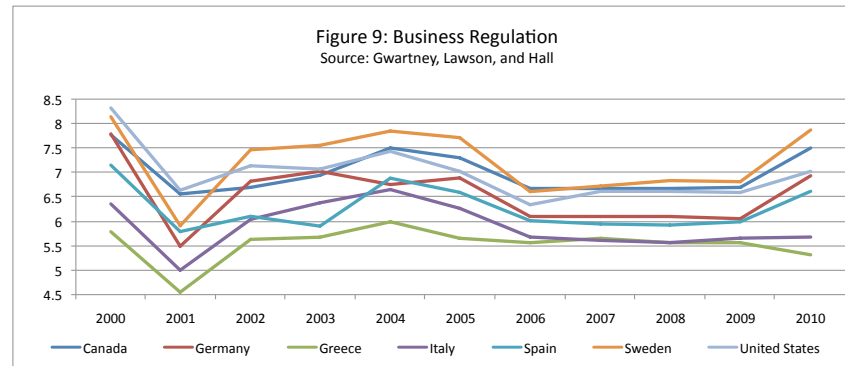
Retirement systems also need to be brought in line. Germans were distressed to learn in the early part of the crisis that their money was subsidizing an earlier retirement in Greece than in Germany. Reform is needed to stabilize overall government expenditures, too, given the aging of Europe. Here, Sweden may be leading the way, with automatic adjustments for longer life expectancy.

Europe also needs education system improvement. Too many Europeans are

being poorly served by public school systems and universities that do not provide needed skills for the workplace. Again, Sweden and Germany lead the way. Sweden now has a universal system of school vouchers and has opened the door to private schools to compete with public ones; plus, youth in Sweden can leave an often failing public system and get the skills they need in a market-based education

need for wage reduction under the gold standard. Germany effectively performed this trick in the mid-2000s through a combination of productivity growth and wage restraint, as seen in Figure 1.

The reforms listed above would all move southern Europe in that direction. A flexible labour market makes wage restraint easier. Smaller government lessens the tax burden on the private sector and



system. The competition also improves the public system. Germany has long had a tight system of co-operation between skills-development educational institutions and business.

Getting to a viable currency area

Now a brief segue back to Figure 1 on ULC and Figures 2, 3, and 4 on GDP and unemployment. A careful look will show that Germany's success in all these areas really only took off after the 2003 reforms.

"When the euro was introduced, Germany was dubbed the 'sick man of Europe,' with low growth rates and high unemployment. However, it is now enjoying a relatively low jobless rate of 7.2 percent and has escaped recession unlike much of the Eurozone," as Rachel Cooper recently discussed in *The Telegraph*.

Germany's ability to reform gives hope that similar reforms elsewhere in Europe could work. We began with Britain's

increases the space for wealth creation, aiding competitiveness. Regulatory reform, pension reform and education reform lead to a freer economy, drawing in investment and productivity growth.

Such a comprehensive package of reforms over time could moderate wages while increasing productivity, creating effective wage deflation if productivity growth exceeds wage growth. This would help balance the Eurozone area by giving Germans reasons to consume European products, hopefully also boosting German consumption. That would spark southern growth while potentially saving Germany from a Japanese-like crisis.

Fred McMahon is the Michael Walker chair of economic freedom research at the Fraser Institute. He thanks Fraser Institute senior fellow Alan Dowd for his important comments in reviewing this article.

In an age of globalization, the “business of travel”
has quickly become a central pillar of world economies

By Wolfgang Depner

A big, booming business

A large, white, serif letter 'M' is superimposed over the left side of the image. The background is a panoramic view of a city at night, with numerous lights from buildings and streets. The sky is a deep blue with some light clouds. The city extends to the horizon, with a few prominent skyscrapers on the left side.

M

Modern-day tourism can be a struggle against moderation. Tour operators lure clients with every imaginable gimmick — gaudy entertainment and gigantic buffets, to name just a few of the lesser sins against good taste. With the proliferation of all-inclusive resorts and cruises, contemporary tourism is looking like a grown-up's version of spring break, that popular post-pubescent, alcohol-drenched ritual. In light of this, the origins of this industry are rich in irony.

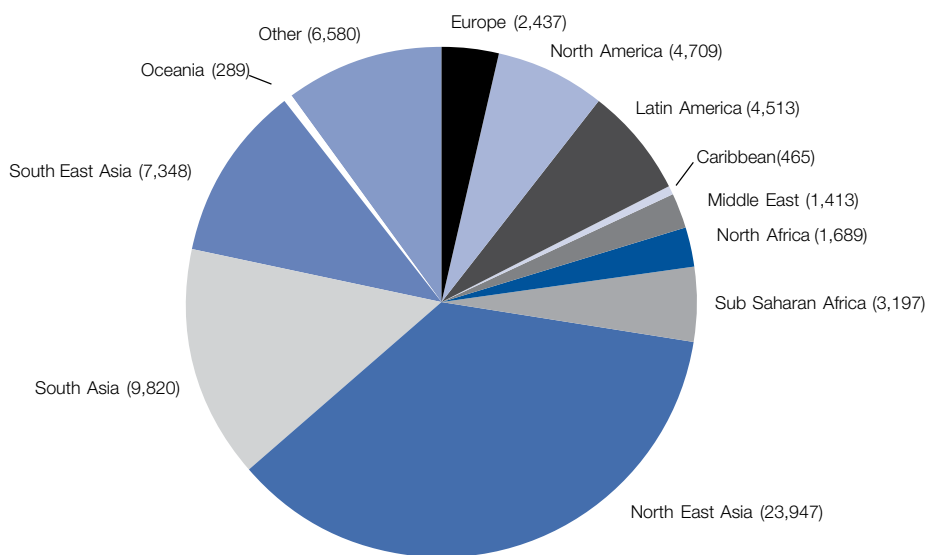
Thomas Cook — a founding father of tourism as a commercial industry — first entered public consciousness as a critic of alcohol during the 1830s. A cabinet-maker by training and a Baptist missionary by religious conviction, Cook believed he could beat the perceived ills of booze with words of Scripture combined with pleasure excursions to unite supporters of temperance.

The first of such tours took place in July 1841, when Cook arranged a train to carry 570 passengers from Leicester in the eastern United Kingdom to nearby Loughborough for a temperance rally. This trip and its modest provisions cost passengers a shilling each and was so successful that others like it soon followed. Within years, Cook was organizing tours throughout Victorian England, and by the 1850s his business and the idea behind it (affordable thrills for the increasingly prosperous masses) had spread into continental Europe, the United States and beyond. The rest is history, as they say.

"The business of travel," as Victorians described tourism, has since become a central part of the modern global economy. Total receipts from international tourism exceeded US \$1.3 trillion in 2012, according to the World Tourism Organization. It also notes that travel and passenger transport currently account for 30 percent of the world's service exports, and six percent of overall goods and services exports. As a worldwide export category, international tourism ranks fifth after fuels, chemicals and food, while ranking first in many developing countries, according to the World Tourism Organization. Europe and North America also identify tourism as an increasingly important part of their economies, as noted by the World Economic Forum in its Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report 2013.

Measuring factors such as quality of transportation and access to cultural and natural attractions, it identifies Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Spain and the United Kingdom as the top five countries

Regional contribution to global T&T total employment growth, thousands of jobs (2012–22)



Source: Oxford Economics, mid-year update 2012 of annual economic impact figures.

poised to benefit from global tourism, a good deal of which will involve citizens from emerging global economies such as China, Brazil and Indonesia.

Travel, of course, is more than traversing the distance from A to B. It confirms, yet simultaneously collapses, space. It educates. Mark Twain once wrote, "travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry and narrow-mindedness." It banishes the ennui of the familiar and replaces it with the exotic, or at least the prospect of the exotic. It returns us to that glorious place where we may see, hear and taste things for the first and perhaps only time.

The late Chilean writer, Roberto Bolano, observed that the world changes every hundred feet. Travel may grant us communion with people in far-flung places, but fracture our bonds with loved ones. It can threaten us with unseen dangers or death. It informs the tales we have told each other since time immemorial, from Gilgamesh through Homer's *Odyssey* onto Kerouac's *On the Road*.

It's easy to romanticize travel as these writers did, but for centuries, it was dangerous, proceeding at the mercy of the elements, no faster than the pace of a human step, the gait of an animal or the wind in the sails. The 14th-Century Islamist scholar, Ibn Battuta, often required months, if not years, to reach destinations, travelling farther than the voyages of his near-contemporary, Marco Polo. Such toils, of course, had nothing in common with contemporary travel. In its early days, John Ruskin noted that modern travelling is "very little different from becoming a parcel."

Perhaps. But modern travel, for all its security lineups, delays, cramped seating and excess, still holds magic. So this list hopes to offer some inspiration for the summer months. It aims to organize recommendations into categories such as entertainment attractions and landmarks. It also alerts readers to sites that are either way off the beaten path or threatened by forces of various sorts. With luck, it could give us licence to imagine ourselves in a different state and to whet our wanderlust.



Thomas Cook was a founding father of tourism as a commercial industry and his travel agencies continue to serve tourists.

The Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index 2013 and 2011 comparison

Country/Economy	2013		2011		Country/Economy	2013		2011	
	Rank/140	Score	Rank/139			Rank/140	Score	Rank/139	
Switzerland	1	5.66	1		Morocco	71	4.03	78	
Germany	2	5.39	2		Brunei Darussalam	72	4.01	67	
Austria	3	5.39	4		Peru	73	4.00	69	
Spain	4	5.38	8		Sri Lanka	74	3.99	81	
United Kingdom	5	5.38	7		Macedonia, FYR	75	3.98	76	
United States	6	5.32	6		Ukraine	76	3.98	85	
France	7	5.31	3		Albania	77	3.97	71	
Canada	8	5.28	9		Azerbaijan	78	3.97	83	
Sweden	9	5.24	5		Armenia	79	3.96	90	
Singapore	10	5.23	10		Vietnam	80	3.95	80	
Australia	11	5.17	13		Ecuador	81	3.93	87	
New Zealand	12	5.17	19		Philippines	82	3.93	94	
Netherlands	13	5.14	14		Trinidad and Tobago	83	3.93	79	
Japan	14	5.13	22		Colombia	84	3.90	77	
Hong Kong SAR	15	5.11	12		Egypt	85	3.88	75	
Iceland	16	5.10	11		Dominican Republic	86	3.88	72	
Finland	17	5.10	17		Cape Verde	87	3.87	89	
Belgium	18	5.04	23		Kazakhstan	88	3.82	93	
Ireland	19	5.01	21		Serbia	89	3.78	82	
Portugal	20	5.01	18		Bosnia and Herzegovina	90	3.78	97	
Denmark	21	4.98	16		Namibia	91	3.77	84	
Norway	22	4.95	20		Gambia, The	92	3.73	92	
Luxembourg	23	4.93	15		Honduras	93	3.72	88	
Malta	24	4.92	26		Botswana	94	3.71	91	
Korea, Rep.	25	4.91	32		Nicaragua	95	3.67	100	
Italy	26	4.90	27		Kenya	96	3.66	103	
Barbados	27	4.88	28		Guatemala	97	3.65	86	
United Arab Emirates	28	4.86	30		Iran, Islamic Rep.	98	3.64	114	
Cyprus	29	4.84	24		Mongolia	99	3.63	101	
Estonia	30	4.82	25		Suriname	100	3.63	n/a	
Czech Republic	31	4.78	31		Kuwait	101	3.61	95	
Greece	32	4.75	29		Moldova	102	3.60	99	
Taiwan, China	33	4.71	37		Guyana	103	3.60	98	
Malaysia	34	4.70	35		El Salvador	104	3.59	96	
Croatia	35	4.59	34		Rwanda	105	3.56	102	
Slovenia	36	4.58	33		Cambodia	106	3.56	109	
Panama	37	4.54	56		Senegal	107	3.49	104	
Seychelles	38	4.51	n/a		Zambia	108	3.46	111	
Hungary	39	4.51	38		Tanzania	109	3.46	110	
Montenegro	40	4.50	36		Bolivia	110	3.46	117	
Qatar	41	4.49	42		Kyrgyz Republic	111	3.45	107	
Poland	42	4.47	49		Nepal	112	3.42	112	
Thailand	43	4.47	41		Venezuela	113	3.41	106	
Mexico	44	4.46	43		Tajikistan	114	3.41	118	
China	45	4.45	39		Paraguay	115	3.39	123	
Turkey	46	4.44	50		Uganda	116	3.39	115	
Costa Rica	47	4.44	44		Ghana	117	3.38	108	
Latvia	48	4.43	51		Zimbabwe	118	3.33	119	
Lithuania	49	4.39	55		Swaziland	119	3.31	116	
Bulgaria	50	4.38	48		Ethiopia	120	3.29	122	
Brazil	51	4.37	52		Cameroon	121	3.27	126	
Puerto Rico	52	4.36	45		Pakistan	122	3.25	125	
Israel	53	4.34	46		Bangladesh	123	3.24	129	
Slovak Republic	54	4.32	54		Malawi	124	3.22	121	
Bahrain	55	4.30	40		Mozambique	125	3.17	128	
Chile	56	4.29	57		Côte d'Ivoire	126	3.15	131	
Oman	57	4.29	61		Nigeria	127	3.14	130	
Mauritius	58	4.28	53		Burkina Faso	128	3.12	132	
Uruguay	59	4.23	58		Mali	129	3.11	133	
Jordan	60	4.18	64		Benin	130	3.09	120	
Argentina	61	4.17	60		Madagascar	131	3.09	127	
Saudi Arabia	62	4.17	62		Algeria	132	3.07	113	
Russian Federation	63	4.16	59		Yemen	133	2.96	n/a	
South Africa	64	4.13	66		Mauritania	134	2.91	136	
India	65	4.11	68		Lesotho	135	2.89	135	
Georgia	66	4.10	73		Guinea	136	2.88	n/a	
Jamaica	67	4.08	65		Sierra Leone	137	2.87	n/a	
Romania	68	4.04	63		Burundi	138	2.82	137	
Lebanon	69	4.04	70		Chad	139	2.61	139	
Indonesia	70	4.03	74		Haiti	140	2.59	n/a	

Source: The Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report 2013, World Economic Forum

Top 10 global entertainment attractions



JEAN-CHRISTOPHE BENOIST

Times Square is a mass gathering place in the heart of Manhattan.

(1) Times Square, New York City, U.S.

Once synonymous with nightmarish decline and decadence during the 1970s, Times Square long ago morphed into a waking dreamland of flickering neon lights. A mass gathering place in the heart of Manhattan, this attraction is particularly popular on New Year's Eve when revellers gather to watch the ball drop on a new annum.

(2) Las Vegas Strip, Las Vegas, Nevada, U.S.

A city of secrets, Las Vegas may also be the most honest place on Earth. Every desire, every taste, every whim, be it repulsive or refined, finds an outlet in this other-

worldly place in the desert, perhaps nowhere more than along the famous Strip, a must-see testament to human ingenuity, creativity and excess.

(3) Faneuil Hall, Boston, U.S.

A former cathedral of early American commerce that once bore the stain of slavery, Faneuil Hall has retained its relevance into the 21st Century. Each year, 18 million visit the more than 100 specialty shops that now occupy this American agora whose walls once echoed the revolutionary words of Samuel Adams and George Washington.

(4) Disneyland Park, Anaheim, U.S.

The Granddaddy of all Disney-themed parks around the world continues to loom large in the public's imagination, if only for the fact that its iconic Sleeping Beauty Castle pays tribute to another global attraction, Germany's Schloss Neuschwanstein, as built by Bavarian king Ludwig II, the world's original prince of imagination. The site has kept up with the times by adding new features such as the popular Pirates of the Caribbean ride.

(5) Grand Bazaar, Istanbul, Turkey

Like Istanbul itself, the Grand Bazaar straddles two worlds — the world of modern commerce and the world of



RAGB

Disneyland Park in Anaheim is the granddaddy of all Disney-themed parks.



DIMGULTEKIN

One of the 3,000 shops in Istanbul's Grand Bazaar.



JEREMY THOMPSON

The T Express, a wooden roller-coaster at Everland in South Korea, was built in 2006.



CHENSIYUAN

The Las Vegas Strip in Nevada is an other-worldly place in the desert.

Islamic traditions. In a city full of icons (Hagia Sophia, the Blue Mosque and the Bosphorus Bridge, to name a few), the Grand Bazaar may manifest the essence of Turkey itself: a rich past and a prosperous future.

(6) Pier 39, San Francisco, U.S.

The days when the City by the Bay was truly an outpost of civilization clinging to the edge of a continent, are long gone. Now it is the epicentre of the global digital revolution. Modernity has not been kind to sections of the city. Pier 39 at the edge of the historic Fishermen's Wharf has become a tourist trap, but it redeems itself with views of local landmarks (Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz) and the nearby sealife.

(7) Tsim Sha Tsui Waterfront, Hong Kong, China

One is likely to feel very safe as one walks along the Tsim Sha Tsui Waterfront in Hong Kong. The righteous martial arts hero, Bruce Lee — albeit only in the form of a statue — keeps a watchful eye on this movie-themed promenade, which also happens to offer superb views of Victoria Harbour.

(8) Everland, Yongin, Gyeonggi-Do Province, South Korea

The largest theme park in South Korea, Everland opened in 1976. While it features theme park elements, it also has a literary bent, dedicating a portion to the fables of Aesop. This unique mixture attracted 6.8 million visitors in 2011.

(9) Bourbon Street, New Orleans, U.S.

Whether New Orleans will ever fully recover from the devastation of Hurricane Katrina remains a question others will have to answer. Yet Bourbon Street — the heart of the city's historic French District — continues to regain its status as one of the world's greatest party streets.

(10) Hollywood Walk of Fame/Grauman's Chinese Theatre, Los Angeles, U.S.

Some may come for the chance to catch a morsel of Hollywood magic. Others may wish to stroll the Hollywood Walk of Fame along Hollywood Boulevard. Still others may simply come for a chance to marvel at one of the most unique cinematic palaces in the world, Grauman's Chinese Theatre. Whatever the motivation — get ready for your closeup.

World's best natural sites

(1) Los Glaciares National Park, Argentina

A land of ice and snow punctuated by soaring peaks, Patagonia in southern Argentina is home to Los Glaciares National Park, an area of exceptional beauty, said to be the best place to see glaciers in action.

(2) Great Barrier Reef, Australia

The largest living structure on Earth, the Great Barrier Reef is home to 400 types of coral, 1,500 species of fish and 4,000 types of mollusc. Visible from space, it confirms the beauty of the natural world, while underscoring the fragility of our pale blue dot, to borrow a line from Carl Sagan.

(3) Iguaçu National Park, Brazil

Literally meaning "big water," the world famous Iguaçu Falls offer a breathtaking sub-tropical experience in the jungles of Brazil or across the border in Argentina.

(4) Plitvice Lakes National Park, Croatia

A series of cascading lakes carving their way through layers of limestone has raised Croatia's Plitvice Lakes National Park to the very top of must-see natural wonders in Europe. Close to one million are said to visit this area each year, thanks to its beauty and accessibility.

(5) Galapagos Islands, Ecuador

Made famous by the father of evolutionary theory, Charles Darwin, this remote archipelago off the coast of Ecuador in South America is home to one of the world's most unique and diverse collections of bird and marine life.

(6) Tikal National Park, Guatemala

Located in northern Guatemala, Tikal National Park protects 22,100 hectares of pristine rainforest and 54 species of mammals. It is also home to one of the largest Mayan ruin sites, which supposedly housed 90,000 people at its height between AD 700 and 800.

(7) Komodo National Park, Indonesia

The protected home of 5,700 Komodo dragons, a large and unique form of lizard, the park actually consists of 29 separate Indonesian islands, the largest three being Komodo, Padar and Rincah. For scientists, the park offers a chance to study



MARIANO CECOWSKI

Los Glaciares National Park is one of the best places to see glaciers.



RICHARD LING

Australia's Great Barrier Reef



DREAMSTIME

The Grand Canyon is a universal symbol of natural beauty.



DREAMSTIME

Ecuador's Galapagos Islands were made famous by Charles Darwin.



REINHARD JAHN

Iguaçu National Park in Brazil is famous for its falls.



DONAR REISKOFFER

The Plitvice Lakes in Croatia are one of the top natural wonders in Europe



NICK HOBGOOD

Komodo National Park is the protected home of 5,700 Komodo dragons, including these two.

evolution. For travellers, it offers stunning flora and fauna.

(8) Lake Baikal, Russia

Lake Baikal is more than just the oldest and deepest lake in the world. It is a well-spring of Russian folklore and music and a source of soulful inspiration as deep as the unique animals in and around it. Nearly two-thirds of the plant and animal life in and near Lake Baikal is unique to the area.

(9) Kilimanjaro National Park, Tanzania

Like an ancient, solitary guardian, the volcanic massif of Mount Kilimanjaro tower above the African savannah as the central focus of an expansive and increasingly threatened nature preserve.

(10) Grand Canyon National Park, U.S.

A universal symbol of natural beauty, it also eludes mere description. Any visit to the American Southwest would be incomplete without a stop at this landmark an intricate, ever-changing ballet of light, shadow and sandstone.



SELBST AUFGENOMMEN

Russia's Lake Baikal is the oldest and deepest lake in the world.

World's top ancient ruins

(1) Great Wall, Badaling, China

By their very purpose, walls protect, but also acknowledge limits, physical and otherwise. The sheer size and scope of this structure (8,850 kilometres), built by millions of slaves across centuries, makes the Great Wall a subject worthy of our study.

(2) Colosseum, Rome, Italy

An iconic symbol of Imperial Rome, this amphitheatre could hold anywhere between 50,000 and 60,000 spectators following its completion in AD 80. The days of *panem et circenses* are long gone, but the Colosseum — despite the damage it has endured through the ages — remains a concrete tribute to the engineering skills of its builders.

(3) Pyramids of Giza and the Great Sphinx, Egypt

We know that the Great Pyramids of Giza served as tombs for a trio of ancient Egyptian pharaohs, one of whom supposedly constructed the nearby Great Sphinx, a mythical creature that is part lion, part human. We also know that this complex is the oldest and only survivor of the ancient Seven Wonders of the World, as described by the Greek historian Herodotus. Many of the questions they raise remain unresolved and as such, they force us to contemplate the eternal.

(4) Acropolis of Athens, Athens, Greece

The flags of countless invaders have flown over Athens' Acropolis, an archeological jumble of temple sites with the Parthenon as its centrepiece. Dedicated to Athena, the Greek goddess whose name the city bears, the temple stands for the defiant spirit of Athens and its people through the ages of history.

(5) Chichen Itza, Mexico

Located at the edge of the Yucatan Peninsula, this former Mayan metropolis speaks to the Mayan belief in the cyclical nature of time. Long past its peak when the Spanish conquered the region in the 1520s and 1530s, the city disappeared behind a veil of vines, only to re-emerge in the early 20th Century. At its centre stands El Castillo, or the Temple of Kukulcan, a Mesoamerican step pyramid.



The Great Sphinx, a mythical creature that is part lion, part human, was built next to the Great Pyramids of Giza.

(6) Stonehenge, Amesbury, United Kingdom

A source of countless cultural references and an equally large number of esoteric theories about its creators and functions, Stonehenge may never reveal its secrets. What purpose(s) did the circle of large stones serve? Who were the people who build them? Which building methods were used? No matter. It is already an early triumph of human ingenuity and artistry, a neolithic search for the sublime.

(7) Machu Picchu, Peru

A memorial composed of stone and sky, Machu Picchu mourns the ancient Incan civilization. Situated at an altitude of 2,430 metres, scholars consider Machu Picchu one of the most important cultural landmarks in Latin America. The site also serves as a preserve for several endangered animals, their existence as fragile and tenuous as the jungle trails that lead to this fleeting city in the clouds.

(8) Angkor Wat, Cambodia

The centrepiece of a larger archeological complex featuring remains of various administrative and religious buildings,

Angkor Wat (Temple City) symbolizes the fusion of religion and politics that powered the former Khmer Empire from the 9th Century until its demise in the 15th Century. This symbiosis has remained visible to this very day. The flag of modern-day Cambodia features a relief of Angkor Wat. As such, the site is a symbol of national pride.

(9) Petra, Jordan

It is "a rose-red city half as old as time," to borrow a line from English poet John William Burgon. Petra has a powerful, hypnotic effect on visitors as they gaze upon its rock-cut architecture. The prosperous capital of the ancient Nabateans, Petra "fell off" the map for more than a millennium before its "rediscovery" in 1812 and subsequent starring role in the Indiana Jones trilogy.

(10) Gaochang, Xinjiang, China

For daring travellers who wish to experience the ancient Silk Road, Gaochang may be well worth the effort. Located at the edge of the inhospitable Taklamakan Desert, it was once a prosperous stop, with relatively well-preserved ruins to prove it.



NICOLAS PERRAULT III

The Great Wall of China is 8,850 kilometres in length and was built by millions of slaves.



DENNIS JARVIS

The Monastery (Al Dier) in Petra, Jordan, has a powerful, hypnotic effect on visitors.



BJORN CHRISTIAN TORRISSEN

Angkor Wat, known as Temple City, is an archeological complex featuring the remains of administrative and religious buildings in Cambodia.

Top 10 historical and modern landmarks

(1) Statue of Liberty, New York, U.S.

Conceived as a celebration of Franco-American friendship, the Statue of Liberty has since become a global beacon of hope. Standing guard at the symbolic gates of the New World, it is more than 90 metres tall from the foot of the base to the crown of the flame. Most recently battered by Hurricane Sandy, the Statue was set to re-open on July 4, 2013.

(2) Taj Mahal, Agra, India

This crowning achievement of Indo-Islamic architecture pleases our senses with stunning elegance and comforts our soul with the realization that our loved ones will live far beyond their time as long as we find our own unique ways to remember them. This was perhaps the unintended lesson for all of us when 17th-Century Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan built the Taj Mahal to remember his departed wife, Mumtaz Mahal.

(3) The Eiffel Tower, Paris, France

A sweeping symphony of steel held together by ribbons, the Eiffel Tower symbolizes the late 19th-Century belief that humans could solve any problem through technology, a harmful conceit confirmed by catastrophes of the 20th Century. Times have thankfully changed, yet the Eiffel Tower has endured as a symbol of human ingenuity, still pointing upwards into the infinite sky, still urging us to reach beyond our own limits.

(4) Burj Khalifa, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

A shimmering dream of glass and pride, the world's tallest building stretches 828 metres into the desert sky of Dubai. Dedicated in 2010, six years after construction began, the Burj Khalifa is a monument to the wealth of the Gulf region and a physical reminder of the rise of Asia. Nine of the 10 tallest buildings in the world currently stand on the Asian continent.

(5) Golden Gate Bridge, San Francisco, U.S.

Once the longest suspension bridge in the world at 1,280 metres, the Golden Gate Bridge still possesses a magical quality that defies its utilitarian origin as a make-work project borne out of the



Christ the Redeemer overlooks Rio de Janeiro.

Great Depression. Bridges in the U.S. and elsewhere have since eclipsed the Golden Gate in length, but none will likely rob it of its mystique.

(6) Elizabeth Tower (Big Ben), London, England

The Shard — Europe's tallest building — may one day become the defining landmark of London. However, the competition for this title is, shall we say, stiff. In a city full of heritage landmarks, Elizabeth Tower (as Big Ben is now called) still reigns supreme as the visual focal point of the London skyline.

(7) Sydney Opera House, Australia

This modern temple of the arts is nothing less than an affront to high priests of the status quo. Designed by then-unknown Danish architect Jørn Utzon, it incorporates previously unprecedented design elements, building technologies and materials. In short, it has divided the visual history of Sydney into two eras — BOH (Before Opera House) and AOH (After Opera House).

(8) Shanghai World Financial Center, China

Currently the tallest building in the People's Republic of China at 492 metres, the Shanghai World Financial Center features a unique trapezoid aperture at its peak. This design element has earned the building the nickname of "bottle opener."

(9) Christ the Redeemer, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

One of the New Seven Wonders of the World, this statue of Jesus Christ is "only" the fifth largest of its kind. Yet it is arguably the most iconic, a perception owed to its prominent location above the equally famous beaches of Rio. This exposure will only grow in the future as Rio gets ready to host the 2016 Summer Olympics and the World Cup in 2014.

(10) Millau Viaduct, Millau, France

A blend of visual simplicity and technical sophistication that resembles a tall ship from afar, the stunning Millau Viaduct spans the Tran River valley in southern France.



DANIEL SCHWEN

The Statue of Liberty was a gift to the U.S. from the people of France.



DILIFF

Elizabeth Tower, as Big Ben is now called, has a prominent place in London's skyline.



DREAMSTIME

The Burj Khalifa in Dubai, UAE, is the world's tallest building.

Most threatened world heritage sites

(1) Timbuktu, Mali

Founded in the 5th Century, Timbuktu reached its economic and cultural peak in the 15th and 16th Centuries, when it was an important centre for the diffusion of Islamic culture through the University of Sankore, parts of which Islamist radicals destroyed during a recent city occupation.

(2) Florida Everglades

Rich in biological and archeological diversity, the Florida Everglades exist at the transition point between temperate and sub-tropical America. But if current trends continue, sooner or later, the region will become part of concrete America.

(3) Cultural Landscape/Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley

Enclosed between the high mountains of the Hindu Kush in the central highlands of Afghanistan, lies the Bamiyan Valley. The region entered public consciousness in March 2001 when the former Taliban rulers of Afghanistan deliberately destroyed two Buddha statues carved into the valley's rocky cliffs.

(4) Garamba National Park, Democratic Republic of Congo

Garamba National Park contains the four largest land mammals in the world: the hippopotamus, the elephant, the giraffe. Above all, it is home to the last 30 remaining white rhinoceroses in the world.

(5) Santa Ana de Coro, Venezuela

Founded by Spanish Conquistadors in 1527, Santa Ana de Coro was the seat of the first Catholic bishop in the New World. It is also considered the first "German" colony in the Americas, because its land was "gifted" to the Spanish crown by a banking family from Augsburg.

(6) Liverpool, Maritime Mercantile City, United Kingdom

An integral player in the historical rise of the British empire and modernity itself, the city and port of Liverpool still reference this past through their architecture and infrastructure. Yet the pressures of development can be unceasing.

(7) Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System

Extending from the border with Mexico



ANDY BLACKLEDGE

The 300-kilometre Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System, covering 96,000 hectares, is the largest reef complex in the northern hemisphere.

to the north to near the Guatemalan border to the south, the Belize barrier reef represents the world's second-largest reef system and the largest reef complex in the northern hemisphere. A significant habitat for countless threatened species, famed

marine explorer Jacques-Yves Cousteau drew attention to its beautiful features, particularly the Great Blue Hole.

(8) Abu Mena, Egypt

Built in the 3rd Century AD, Abu Mena

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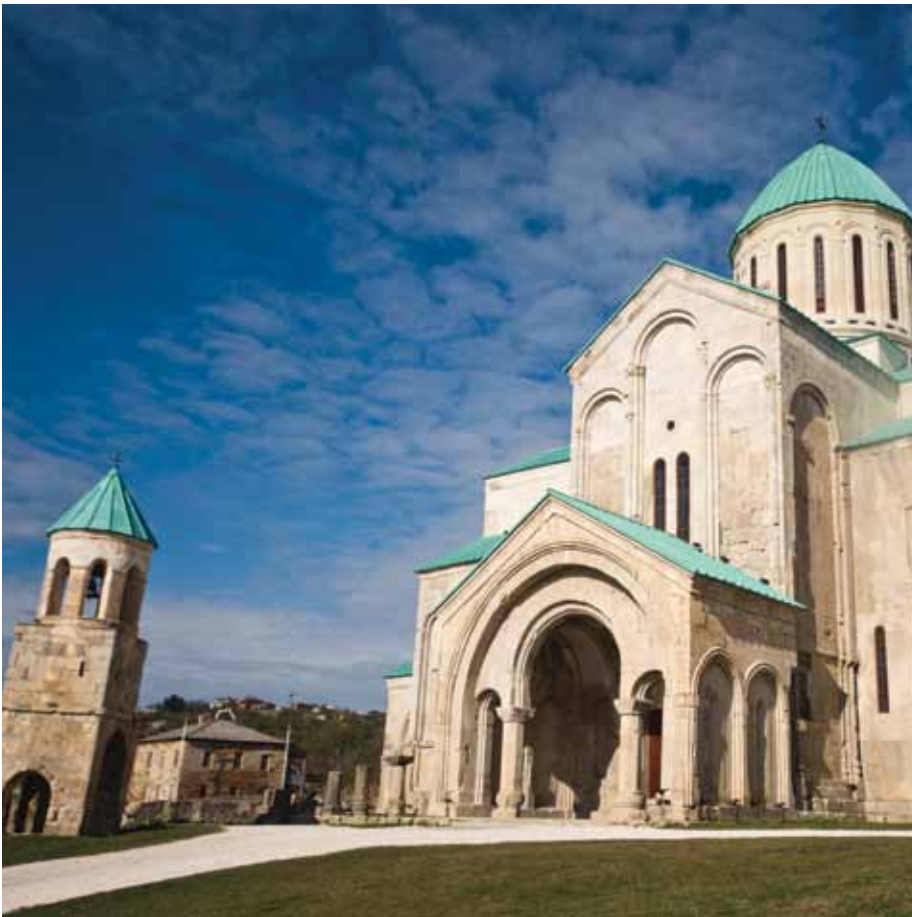
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BRAVE LEMMING

Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati monastery in Georgia are good examples of medieval Georgian architecture.



MARCO BONAVOGLIA

The taller of the two Buddhas of Bamiyan in 1976. They were destroyed by the Taliban in 2001.



ISABELLE AND STÉPHANE GALLAY

The Monastery of Abu Mena, one of the early centres of Christendom in Egypt.

housed one of the early centres of Christendom. Founded on the tomb of an early Christian martyr and saint, archeological excavations have consequently revealed Abu Mena grew rapidly in the course of the 5th and 6th Centuries as a major pilgrimage site.

(9) Historic Town of Zabid, Yemen

The capital of Yemen between the 13th and 15th Centuries, Zabid was once a major centre of Islamic scholarship and worship. Its architecture, meanwhile, features building traditions dating back to the 7th Century. The unsightly introduction of modern materials is threatening its visual legacy.

(10) Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery, Kutaisi, Georgia

Both the cathedral and the monastery represent the high mark of Georgian medieval architecture. Ironically, government-sponsored efforts to rebuild parts of the cathedral have, according to UNESCO, undermined the authenticity and integrity of the site.

Best sacred sites

(1) Ta Prohm, Cambodia

Located in the Angkor region of Cambodia, not far away from Angkor Wat, this Hindu temple was deliberately left in a state of decline following its rediscovery. Swamped by roots, Ta Prohm reconciles the divine with the imperceptible but unrelenting grip of nature.

(2) The Ka'ba, Mecca, Saudi Arabia

The most sacred place of the Islamic world, the Ka'ba occupies the courtyard of the Masjid al-Haram Mosque, the world's largest. Non-Muslims may not enter the city.

(3) Borobudur, Java, Indonesia

Built between AD 750 and 842, 300 years before Cambodia's Angkor Wat and 400 years before work had even begun on the greatest European cathedrals, this Buddhist temple was "lost" for nearly a millennium until a group of British explorers rediscovered it. An astonishing building, it features 504 Buddha structures.

(4) Las Lajas Cathedral, Ipiales, Colombia

Inspired by the alleged appearance of the Virgin Mary to a deaf-mute girl in 1754, this neo-gothic basilica near the Colombian-Ecuadoran border clings to the edge of a deep canyon, as if to defy the bounds of the Earth.

(5) Hagia Sophia, Istanbul, Turkey

Once the most important churches of Christendom before the Ottoman conquest of Constantinople in 1453 and one of the most important mosques after it, Hagia Sophia has since become a secular tourist destination without having lost its sacredness.

(6) Old City Jerusalem

Benjamin Disraeli once observed that Jerusalem captures the history of the earth and of heaven. And with good reason. Sacred to three of the world's major monotheistic religions (Judaism, Christianity and Islam), the city practically brims with holy sites, including but not exclusively the Dome of the Rock, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and the Western Wall. To take a walk through the streets of this ancient city might be considered an attempt to touch the face of God.



MUHAMMAD MAHDI KARIM

The Ka'ba in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, is the most sacred place in the Islamic world.

(7) St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City

Built on the resting place of Rome's first bishop, Peter, a disciple of Jesus, it can hold up to 60,000 worshippers. Standing deep inside Vatican City, it is the spiritual centre of Catholic Christians.

(8) Temple of Apollo, Delphi, Greece

Hewn into the slopes of Mount Parnassus, this temple honoured one of the most important deities of the Hellenic world. Part of a larger social and recreational complex, the temple's interior hosted the Oracle of Delphi, the enigmatic but revered soothsayer of classical Greek culture.

(9) Mahabodhi Temple, Bodh Gaya, India

The site of this temple is said to be the place where the Buddha achieved enlightenment in 531 BC while sitting under a Bodhi tree. Three centuries later, Emperor Asoka built the first temple at that site to mark the occasion. The present temple dates from the 5th or 6th Century.

(10) Notre Dame, Paris, France

The quintessential example of gothic architecture, Notre Dame has survived multiple wars, revolutions and foreign occupations. Like a rock in the waves, it is a symbol of human endurance and strength.



B PILGRIM

Bodh Gaya, India, where Buddha is said to have achieved enlightenment under a Bodhi tree in 531 BC.

World's best educational sites

(1) Musée du Louvre, Paris

Visiting this repository of artistry may be a daunting experience, if only for the large crowds (8.5 million annually) that flock to it. But when one looks at the big picture, so to speak, the long lineups to see immortal pieces such as the Mona Lisa are minor inconveniences.

(2) Forbidden City (Palace Museum) Beijing, China

The epicentre of Chinese imperial power for six centuries (1416-1911), the site located at the edge of Tiananmen Square now projects the countless achievements of Chinese civilization to a global audience.

(3) National Air and Space Museum, Washington D.C., U.S.

Featuring the largest collection of historic air and space crafts in the world, it recently added the decommissioned Space Shuttle Discovery to its collection.

(4) Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, Washington D.C., U.S.

One of 19 museums under the umbrella of the Smithsonian Institution, it is the most-visited natural history museum in the world, featuring 126.5 million artifacts and specimens.

(5) Palace of Versailles, Versailles, France

Once synonymous with the Age of Absolutism and the site of key historical events such as the signing of the Treaty of Versailles (1919), it balances the human desire for pleasure with the need for order. While countless European monarchies (both large and small) imitated the form of Versailles, none could replicate its essence.

(6) British Museum, London, England

With four kilometres of exhibition space and seven million objects (including the Rosetta Stone), the British Museum is nothing short of a cultural Noah's Ark. Even better, it offers free admission.

(7) Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City, U.S.

In a city bursting with museums and educational attractions, including the spectacular Museum of Modern Art, the historic "Met" arguably remains the gold standard.



MARC VAASS

The Palace of Versailles has been a template for countless other monarchies in Europe.

(8) Vatican Museums, Vatican City, Italy

A shrine to the cultural and religious history of classical and western civilization, this complex includes the Sistine Chapel, which is part of the official residence of the Pope. The chapel's famous ceiling is, of course, nothing less than a biblical picturebook of stunning grandeur.

(9) Natural History Museum, London, England

Part exhibition space, part research facility, the Natural History Museum houses 70 million exhibits, some of which were first collected by none other than Charles Darwin himself.

(10) Museumsinsel, Berlin, Germany

This Island of Museums in the heart of historic Berlin features five thematically diverse museums within a space of eight hectares. Must-stops include the Pergamonmuseum and the Neues Museum, whose exhibits include the bust of Nefertiti.



VALÉRIE 75

The Natural History Museum in London is part exhibition space, part research facility and houses some artifacts collected by Charles Darwin.

Most difficult UNESCO heritage sites to visit

(1) Surtsey, Iceland

Created by volcanic eruptions between 1963 and 1967, Surtsey is a pristine natural laboratory. Free from human interference, it offers invaluable insights into several natural processes. It is possible to see the island from tour boats.

(2) Henderson Island, Pitcairn Island, U.K.

Part of the remote Pitcairn Island Group made famous by the *Mutiny on the Bounty*, this uninhabited atoll appears to be the epitome of a deserted island. In other words, the perfect gateway from civilization.

(3) Gough and Inaccessible Islands

The name says it all. Anyone wishing to reach uninhabited Inaccessible must first travel to Tristan da Cunha, a British territory in the South Atlantic, then board a ship that may take several days to reach the island. Nearby Gough, the eroded summit of a volcanic mass, is "inhabited" by a small group of meteorologists.

(4) The Complex of Koguryo Tombs, North Korea

Spread across the northwestern part of the Korean peninsula, the tombs represent the best-preserved legacy of the Koguryo Kingdom, one of the strongest kingdoms between the 3rd Century BC and the 7th in what is now northeast China and half of the Korean peninsula. It is supposed to be well worth a visit — if only North Korea were accessible.

(5) Heard Island and McDonald Islands, Australia

Located halfway between Australia and South Africa, and just more than 1,600 kilometres from Antarctica, this island group opens "a window into the Earth" as the only volcanically active islands in the sub-Arctic.

(6) Papahānaumokuākea, U.S.

This vast isolated linear cluster of small, low-lying islands and atolls begins 250 kilometres to the northwest of the main Hawaiian Archipelago and extends for 1,931 kilometres. Native Hawaiian beliefs identify this splendid marine area as the origin of life itself.



A royal penguin rookery at Macquarie Island, 1,500 kilometres southeast of Tasmania.

(7) The New Zealand Sub-Antarctic Islands, New Zealand

Located off the southeastern coast of New Zealand, this island group consists of five separate islands. Noted for their unique and remarkable biodiversity, these islands are fairly accessible to tourists, but only to well-heeled ones.

(8) Macquarie Island, Australia

Located 1,500 kilometres to the southeast of Tasmania, about halfway between Australia and Antarctica, this island is the only place on Earth where rocks from the Earth's mantle (six kilometres below the ocean floor) are being actively exposed above sea level. King Penguins, along with other rare birds, also call the island home.

(9) East Rennell, Solomon Islands

East Rennell makes up the southern third of Rennell Island, the southernmost island in the Solomon Islands group in the western Pacific and the largest raised coral atoll in the world. Subject to frequent cyclones, the area is nonetheless a preserve for several animal species. It is also the site of Lake Tegano, the largest lake in the insular Pacific.

(10) Bikini Atoll Nuclear Test Site, Marshall Islands, U.S.

A symbol of humanity's nuclear age, the site reveals the relationship between human technology and nature in the most drastic way. It also bears witness to the social dimension of technology as the tests (duly recorded) helped to inspire several social movements such as the anti-nuclear movement and the environmental movement.

Top world heritage sites in Canada



WLADEYSLAW

Old Town Lunenburg, established in 1753, is one of the best examples of a planned British colonial settlement in North America.

(1) Nahanni National Park, N.W.T.

Located in the southwest corner of the Northwest Territories along the South Nahanni and Flat rivers, this mountainous park is a fine example of the desolate beauty of Canada's North.

(2) SGang Gwaay, B.C.

Sitting on a small island off the west coast of Haida Gwaii, this abandoned Haida village commemorates a vanished civilization, whose first traces reach back almost 2,000 years.

(3) L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site, Nfld.

On the tip of Newfoundland's Great Northern Peninsula, this site contains the remains of a Viking settlement dating back to the 11th Century. A fragile, yet important milestone along the journey of humanity.

(4) Historic District of Old Quebec, Que.

The cultural and linguistic heart of French-speaking Canada, the historic district of Old Quebec provides an outstanding example of a fortified colonial town, by far the most complete in North America.

(5) Old Town Lunenburg, N.S.

Founded in 1753, this site represents one of the best surviving examples of a planned British colonial settlement in North America. Settled by German, Swiss and Montbéliardian French immigrants, the town's name pays homage to the House of Braunschweig-Lüneburg, from which the Hanoverian kings of England descended.

(6) Rideau Canal, Ottawa, ON

Designed and built for military purposes in the late 1820s and early 1830s when relations between the United States and what would become Canada were less than friendly, the Rideau Canal remains the best preserved example of a slackwater canal in North America. Open for navigation from spring through fall, a section through downtown Ottawa turns into a skating rink in the winter.

(7) Waterton Glacier International Peace Park

This park was formed in 1932 by combining the Waterton Lakes National Park (Alberta, Canada) with the Glacier National

Park (Montana, United States) to form the world's first International Peace Park. Not only does this park offer stunning scenery, it also reminds us that nature knows no boundaries.

(8) Wood Buffalo National Park, AB

Home to one of the largest free-roaming herds of bison in North America, this national park protects a vast and varied wilderness area shaped by the Peace, Athabasca and Slave rivers.

(9) Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump, AB

Aboriginal Peoples of the Plain used this site to hunt bison for millennia by chasing their prey over nearby cliffs. As such, it illustrates social and commercial practices that only ceased in the middle of the 19th Century.

(10) Dinosaur Provincial Park, AB

Located in the heart of Alberta's badlands, a cacophony of sun-baked ridges and gullies, this site has yielded invaluable insights about the nature of planetary life during the rule of the dinosaurs dating back 75 million years.



GIERSZEP

Nahanni National Park's Virginia Falls.



ANSGAR WALK

Wood Buffalo National Park in Alberta is home to one of the largest free-roaming herds of bison in North America.

Canada Among Nations 2013

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Most visited Canadian attractions

Canadians are arguably among the most cosmopolitan people in the world, if one is permitted such a generalization. Connected to every corner of the world, either through immediate family or a larger ethnic community, Canadians are among the most prolific world-trotters. Canada also offers a perhaps unrivalled number of domestic travel opportunities, a fact long recognized by international visitors and the international community at large. The World Economic Forum, for example, recently gave Canada high marks for its tourism potential, ranking it as the 8th most competitive country. This said, there is still a lot of room for Canadians to see their own country and each other. Yes, Canada's size and diversity may also create barriers — financial, linguistic or otherwise. But these perceived obstacles, as genuine as they might appear, will likely prove illusionary very quickly, once we make a concerted effort to see this country.

(1) Niagara Falls, ON

Straddling the borders of the U.S. and Canada, this massive waterfall is neither the tallest nor the widest of its kind in the world. But it is among the most iconic, partly because it is highly accessible. By one estimate, it attracts 22.5 million visitors annually.

(2) Harbourfront Centre, Toronto, ON

Once an industrial space along Lake Ontario, Harbourfront Centre now attracts up to 12 million annual visitors with a wide variety of cultural and artistic offerings. Key attractions include a large boardwalk, an outdoor hockey rink and several naval exhibits, including a privateer.

(3) Granville Island, Vancouver, B.C.

Arguably one of the most visionary and successful examples of urban renewal anywhere in the world, this former industrial area now entices 10.5 million visitors each year, with more than 70 percent coming from outside of British Columbia.

(4) Stanley Park, Vancouver, B.C.

The first and largest urban park in Canada, Stanley Park attracts an estimated eight million visitors each year. Named after Canada's sixth Governor-General



UJWAL KUMAR

Niagara Falls tops the list of most-visited Canadian attractions.

Lord Stanley of Preston, the 400-plus hectare park has been a landmark ever since it opened in 1888.

(5) Vieux Port, Montreal, QC

Montreal's historic Old Port might be the most "touristy" part of the city. And yet it is difficult to resist its distinct charm. Street performers of various kinds only enhance its unique mix of European-style architecture and vitality.

(6) Exhibition Place, Toronto, ON

A sprawling complex of exhibition halls, entertainment facilities and historic buildings, Exhibition Place draws 5.3 million visitors annually. Home to Canada's largest fair, Exhibition Place is the locus of social life in Toronto, particularly during mega events such as Caribana.

(7) The Forks, Winnipeg, MB

Marking the intersection of the Red and Assiniboine rivers, the Forks have been a meeting and trading place for thousands of years, first for the Aboriginals who originally inhabited the area, then for successive waves of European settlers. Each year, as many as four million people visit the area.

(8) Banff National Park, AB

Canada's original national park is still its best. Yes, it is easy to be cynical about the hordes of tourists who rush to see iconic landmarks such as Lake Louise, but even the briefest moment of respite from the rush of modernity can reveal the magic of this place.

(9) Canada's Wonderland, Maple, ON

Home to Canada's largest wooden roller-coaster (the Leviathan), Canada's Wonderland draws 3.5 million visitors a year.

(10) Mount Royal Park, Montreal, QC

This 200-hectare park occupies part of the mountain that lies in the midst of Montreal Island. A popular spot for locals and tourists, it offers ample recreational opportunities and sweeping views of the city from its highest vantage point (234 metres).

Wolfgang Depner is a doctoral candidate at the University of British Columbia-Okanagan and the co-editor of *Readings in Political Ideologies Since the Rise of Modern Science*, published by Oxford University Press.

Canada's defence on right track

By Senator Pamela Wallin

Looking back, one feels almost nostalgic about the comparative stability of the Cold War era. Yes, there were tense times and hot proxy wars, but the world's two superpowers were constrained by the prospect of mutually assured destruction.

Today, acts of terrorism kill thousands and cost billions; cyber-attacks can cripple a country or an industry in a nanosecond; and unstable countries with nuclear options and brazen leaders could create catastrophe.

Canada's security challenges are global, so defence in a time of restraint demands new thinking and keen leadership. Canada must safeguard the recent lessons learned in Afghanistan and Libya and ensure we don't degrade our operational capabilities and readiness. We cannot allow another "decade of darkness" such as we witnessed in the 1990s, when our men and women were left desperately ill-equipped to venture into harm's way.

Our new Chief of Defence Staff, Gen. Tom Lawson, says this won't happen again. He intends to make readiness a priority, and told the Senate's national security and defence committee that, "We are consolidating from a position of strength that is founded on rich operational experience, world-class training and an ambitious capital acquisition program."

That program — the core of the Canada First Defence Strategy — is real. Canada, at last, bought its own strategic airlift capability with the powerful CC-177 Globemaster. We purchased new Hercules J tactical lift aircraft to replace our aging fleet. We're about to take delivery of new Chinook F medium-to-heavy lift helicopters, restoring a capability we forfeited years ago. And an entire new surface fleet for the Royal Canadian Navy is on the books, along with a next generation fighter capability.

As for our "rich operational experience," the Canadian Armed Forces is incorporating that into training for tomorrow. That experience comes largely from combat in Afghanistan and Libya, where our troops and senior officers justifiably earned the great respect of our allies. Gen.



U.S. Gen. Stanley McChrystal (shown with Canada's then Chief of Defence Gen. Walter Natynzyk) was NATO's commander in Afghanistan. Gen. McChrystal said that, if he could, he'd put his troops under Canadian command because Canadians understood counterinsurgency.

Stanley McChrystal, then NATO's commander in Afghanistan, said that if he could, he would put all his troops under Canadian command because Canadians "got" counterinsurgency — that they were not only fierce fighters, but humanitarians with heart and skill. Gen. James Mattis, commander of U.S. Central Command, praised "the ethical Canadian Forces" and declared the need for "more Canada" in future coalitions of the willing. And of course, NATO entrusted leadership of the entire highly successful Libyan campaign to a Canadian, Lt.-Gen. Charlie Bouchard.

Our military has been thinking smart about how to do things well, with less. For example, three operational commands

were collapsed into a single Canadian Joint Operations Command. The navy has consolidated its training and other operations. Our air force and navy are making greater use of flight and ship simulators for training — saving on costly fuel and reducing wear and tear. And our air force wants to get into drones in a big way because they are cheaper and more versatile than piloted aircraft for a range of duties, and could prove a real game changer in the North.

Yet, the Boston bombings and the foiled plots of visiting and homegrown terrorists here remind us that terrorism remains very much a threat — "the primary threat to Canada's national security," as the

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director of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, Richard Fadden, told our Senate defence committee. He particularly noted “the danger from al-Qaeda-inspired extremism, both domestically and internationally.” Given his perspective, Mr. Fadden’s recent move from CSIS to the deputy minister role at DND will be invaluable in keeping our troops in a state of readiness.

We have no idea when or if this Islamist terror threat will be contained or subside. But it won’t be soon. The list of lethal attacks was already long by 2001, when al-Qaeda terrorists took down the Twin Towers and destroyed a wing of the Pentagon, obliterating nearly 3,000 lives. And they continue to take their toll.

The security challenge is enormous and twofold — to watch for and disrupt Islamist terrorists operating abroad and to carefully look out for budding jihadists at home, such as the Toronto 18 or the alleged VIA Rail plotters, who are radicalized and hell-bent on killing or maiming civilians.

On balance, I believe Canada is focused on both while retaining perspective on the threat, so that terrorists do not push us into unreasonably restricting the very freedoms we cherish and they despise.

There is another, overarching security concern as the world rapidly becomes completely reliant on networked computer systems. We are all connected, and therefore all vulnerable. And while the price of becoming a nuclear power is high, there is almost no cost to becoming a cyber power. Those who want to disrupt and destroy need only write or buy the computer code needed to do the job.

Some are hackers, breaching firewalls simply to prove they can — a kind of geek sport. But others seek a truly destructive, disabling cyber-attack on the control systems of our critical infrastructure: electrical grids, transportation systems, banking and finance, orbiting satellites, military command and control systems and more.

The Pentagon created Cyber Command to fight in the new military domain of cyberspace so they can defend the U.S.’s military networks, use cyber to enhance conventional military operations, and develop cyber responses to warlike cyber-attacks that damage property and kill or injure people.

In Canada, our military’s Cyber Directorate also views cyber as a new military domain and while defending their own systems, DND and the CAF are also building cyber capabilities and working with



Canadian military policeman Cpl. Eric Belanger stands guard with a C7A1 assault rifle while humanitarian aid is unloaded from a CC-130 Hercules in Afghanistan.

operational decision-makers on real-time command and control in the cyber realm.

When it comes to the more traditional good guys and bad guys, there are still some powerful players with which to be reckoned. Despite running trade deficits with them, we value our trading and investment relationships with China. It’s the world’s most populous country; it already has the second-largest economy (if you don’t count the European Union) and may soon top the United States. Even in these troubled economic times, China’s GDP growth was nearly 8 percent in 2012, far outpacing Canada and the United States. And while China represents an almost endless market for the world’s resources, we cannot ignore the fact that it is an authoritarian one-party state whose global intentions remain obscure and sometimes troubling. By extending its military reach, and by asserting ownership of land far into the South China Sea, China has unsettled its neighbours and caused the United States to change strategic direction — the “Asian pivot.” China is also securing land and other strategic resources whenever and wherever it can, and has set its sights on the Arctic, too, conducting “research” and sending an icebreaker through Russia’s northeast passage. China even signed a free-trade treaty with tiny Iceland as it lines up allies in its bid for permanent

observer status and influence on the Arctic Council.

We need not be alarmist about China, but the West’s “pivot” toward the Pacific was prudent. So Canada is pursuing the right course, being careful, not confrontational. We want greater trade ties and a secure market for our resources. But we now have a submarine on the west coast, joining the rest of our Pacific Fleet and we are the second biggest player of the 22 nations who take part in the world’s largest maritime military exercise — RIMPAC (Rim of the Pacific). This massive multinational exercise simultaneously sends signals and fosters mutual understanding and the ability to work together on common goals. Wisely, the United States has invited China to take part in RIMPAC in 2014 and the Chinese have accepted.

There are the rogue and unstable states that have, or are seeking, nuclear weapons. North Korea has the bomb and has threatened to use it. Iran continues its push to develop a bomb despite international condemnation and strict sanctions. Pakistan and India, mutually hostile, both have the bomb, and Pakistan faces serious internal security challenges from extremists.

Canada, as a middle power, is limited in what it can do about nuclear proliferation. We use persuasion, and, in the case of Iran, we have invoked a strict regime of sanctions to slow their progress towards a bomb. Still, North Korea, Iran, Pakistan, India and others have either not signed or have not ratified the non-proliferation and test-ban treaties, prompting some to quite rightly renew consideration of a missile shield program.

All told, I believe Canada is dealing well with the main challenges to our security — we’re thinking smart about smaller budgets; working closely with our allies to thwart jihadist terrorism; taking action to protect ourselves from cyber threats; trading with China, but carefully watching her rise; and working to reduce the spread of nuclear weapons.

Canada is no longer a spectator nation. Our recent military missions have helped put our country back at the table of international players. Canada can again be counted on to be a courageous warrior and confident and willing partner.

Pamela Wallin is the independent senator for Saskatchewan, former chair of the Senate national security and defence committee, and honorary colonel of the Royal Canadian Air Force.

Cradle of war to one of peace ?

By Catherine Ashton

As much as anywhere in Europe, the recent history of the western Balkans has been written in blood. From its role in igniting the First World War, via the occupation and resistance of the Second World War, to the battles and barbarity that followed the breakup of Yugoslavia, the people of the region have suffered enough.

On April 19, Ivica Dacic and Hashim Thaci decided to do things differently. After six months of direct talks, the prime ministers of Serbia and Kosovo agreed to begin discussions toward normal relations. They set out a range of practical steps that should help their people banish fear, enhance prosperity and play a full role as members of the European family.

We must not exaggerate. This is not the end of the road. It is a fork in the road, and in Brussels, two brave men chose the route marked peace.

That was not the outcome that many people expected six months ago when I brought Mr. Thaci and Mr. Dacic together in my office in Brussels. The two had never met.

For years, my office had brokered technical discussions about day-to-day issues such as what precisely should happen at the border between Serbia and Kosovo. These talks had reached the point where political impetus was needed, and this meant engaging the two prime ministers.

On the afternoon of Oct. 19, Mr. Thaci and Mr. Dacic entered my office in the newly opened headquarters of the European External Action Service. Neither was sure how news of the meeting would be received back home. When our photographer took a single picture of the two men together, I held on to it until they were comfortable that it be released.

Their task was to find a way to help tens of thousands of Kosovar Serbs living in the north of Kosovo. Much has been written about the history of the dispute. The question was how to end it.

That first meeting lasted just one hour. Its purpose was not to settle differences, but to see whether the time was ripe for a sustained dialogue. I thought it was. More important, so did they.

Nine more meetings followed. They were sometimes long, up to 14 hours, often detailed, and sometimes tense. At



Catherine Ashton, the EU's high representative for foreign affairs, facilitated talks between Serbian Prime Minister Ivica Dacic, left, and Kosovo Prime Minister Hashim Thaci.

different times, I invited deputy prime ministers and others from both sides to join. An agreement would stick only if it was endorsed by broad coalitions in both Serbia and Kosovo.

In the end, both sides did find common ground on the level of autonomy the Kosovar Serbs should enjoy. Back in Belgrade and Pristina, their agreement was welcomed across the political spectrum.

Much remains to be done to implement the agreement on the ground. Nevertheless, I think it is possible to reflect on the four big lessons we have learned from the past six months.

- Brave leadership is vital if lasting change is to be achieved. The normal condition of politics is to exploit dividing lines and incite differences. The demand of peacemaking is to seek common ground and design a shared future. Over the past six months, I have seen men from Belgrade and Pristina evolve from politicians into peacemakers. They knew they were taking risks, but, to their great credit, they were not deterred.

- Today's Europe — indeed, much of today's world — is untidy. We have multiple identities that do not always fit easily into simple 19th-Century notions of the nation state. One of the great challenges in so many of today's disputes is to acknowledge the untidiness and help people with different identities to find ways to share the same space in a spirit of mutual respect. Then we have a chance to grasp the real prize: the celebration of our

glorious diversity.

- The European Union can make a big difference. It is a great experiment in making diversity work for the benefit of us all. Yes, it has its faults. It is currently facing tough economic challenges, but overall it works. That is why the people of Eastern Europe wanted to join as soon as they freed themselves from Soviet domination. Now Serbia and Kosovo want to join. Their recent agreement has started a process that will enable them to do so.

- Hard power — economic muscle and sometimes military force — has its place, but soft power has a big role to play. The EU continues to attract new members not just because it supports trade, jobs and investment, but because it stands for values, such as freedom and democracy, that inspire people around the world.

Hard power invites calculation; soft power rewards imagination. What Ivica Dacic and Hashim Thaci showed when they came to my office was that they had the courage to imagine a better future for their people.

Here, then, is my hope. (I stress "hope": It is not yet a certainty.) For the past hundred years, the western Balkans have been known as a cradle of war. From now on, may they be known as a cradle of peace.

Catherine Ashton is the high representative of the European Union for foreign affairs and security policy. This work originally appeared in the *International Herald Tribune*.

Summer reading: From Beverley Baxter to Joseph Kennedy

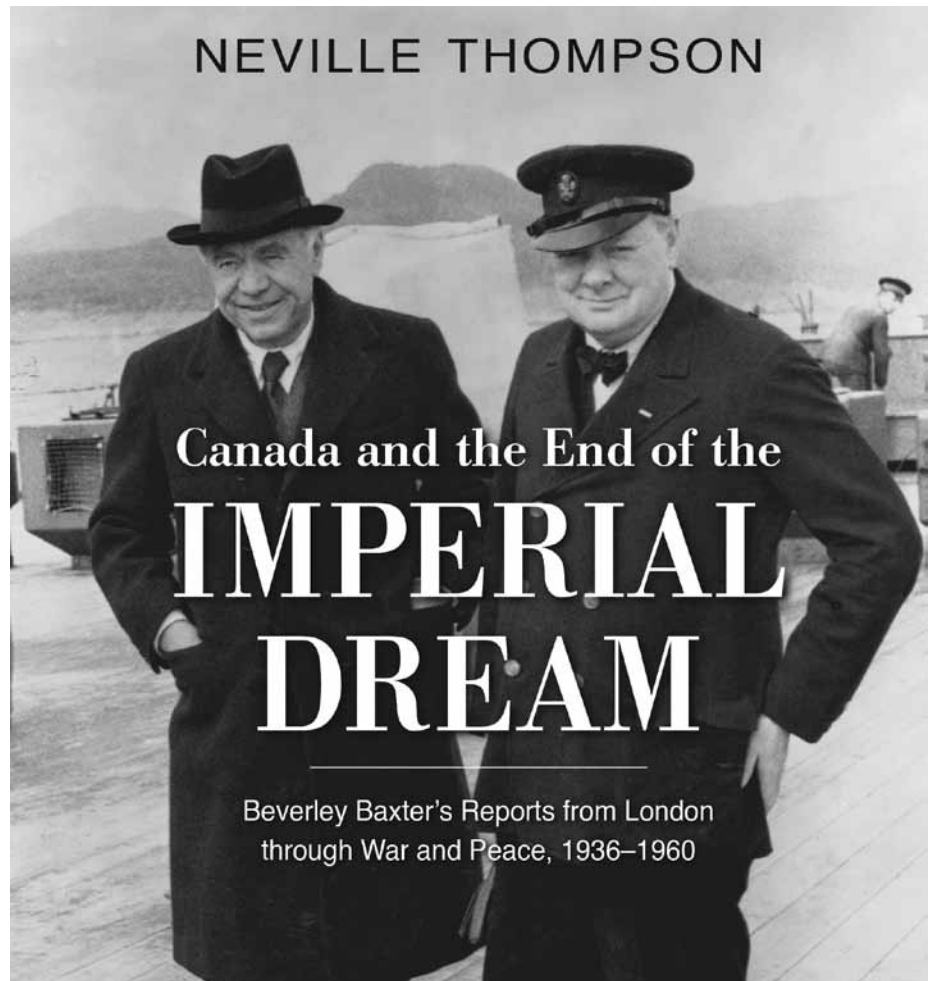
By George Fetherling



GEORGE FETHERLING

I'm not sure whether this was a joke or an urban legend, but there was supposedly a period in the 1950s when some members of the Canadian reading public were said to confuse Beverley Nichols with Beverley Baxter. Mr. Nichols was a prolific English author best known for his too-numerous books about gardening and cats. Mr. Baxter was the Toronto-born one-time piano salesman who sat in the House of Commons at Westminster for three decades and edited the *Daily Express* for Lord Beaverbrook, his fellow Canadian expat. For reasons that are no longer easy to understand, Mr. Nichols was hired as a columnist by *Saturday Night* magazine to explain British politics to the Canadian public. For his part, Mr. Baxter (or Sir Beverley, as he became) wrote a "London Letter" in *Macleans*. This popular feature ran there from 1936, when the British Empire was still a powerful force in the world, to 1960, when the empire was gone, but the Commonwealth still seemed a workable and useful institution. Today, Mr. Baxter, who died in 1964, within months of Beaverbrook and Winston Churchill, is scarcely remembered. But this is all the more reason to take up *Canada and the End of the Imperial Dream: Beverley Baxter's Reports from London through War and Peace* (Oxford University Press, \$29.95). The author is Neville Thompson, a former professor of history at the University of Western Ontario in London.

Mr. Baxter's so-called letters (600 of them in all) differed from the sort of columns we see today bearing datelines from world capitals. The man who wrote them was a powerful journalist indeed. He pushed the circulation of the *Express*



to a million — and then doubled it. But he didn't use his Canadian platform to interview leading personalities or ferret out information that needed airing. Prof. Thompson doesn't quote many long passages from the *Macleans*'s pieces. The bits he does give us, however, show that his subject considered himself a prose stylist (sometimes arch, at others sentimental). Moreover, Mr. Baxter comes across as someone who, to say the least, was pushing his own agenda: namely that Canada was first and foremost a British nation. Or, as Prof. Thompson puts it, Mr. Baxter's work, with its "strong Conservative political, social and economic outlook," was "infused with a passionate belief in the close identity of Canada and Britain, a fervent advocacy of imperial unity..." Such was simply the spirit of the time. But it gradually slipped away, largely as a result

of the two world wars in which Canada, paradoxically, grew so much more independent through the sacrifice and loss it suffered in fighting for the Empire.

Surely this is what readers take away from this enjoyable book. The London Letters that "delighted some, exasperated others, and entertained many for a quarter of a century" contained much that "seemed wrong or misguided later..." Yet they show how a "well-informed observer saw events at the time" and explain, given enough context, why so many Canadians "on his authority accepted them."

Prof. Thompson makes this comment: "In an age of steamships Britain seemed closer, at least to well-educated Canadians and immigrants, than it did at a later time of air travel, television and the Internet." The generality of Canadians at the time were simply more comfortable with Brit-

ish culture, as much from the fact that British culture was what the marketplace kept in stock as a conscious or temperamental effort to keep American culture at a distance. People were familiar with the faraway personalities and issues about which Mr. Baxter wrote. Prof. Thompson postulates that even in the 1950s, in the long shadow of the Second World War, the pieces in question took on an additional value — as nostalgia — among many Canadian military and naval veterans “who



The crew of an M-24 tank along the Nak-tong River front in Korea.

had been posted to Britain, in some cases for years or even the whole war.”

Of course the end had to come. The warning signs of change flashed by, one after another. There were all those successive wars of independence in former colonies, of course, but also the war in Korea, which “caused Baxter to revert to his familiar disbelief in the U.S. [instead of the U.K.] as a world leader,” not to mention the Suez crisis of 1956. But the most important change, the one that made Beverley Baxter redundant, was taking place inside Britain itself: the defeat of the Conservatives. The author writes: “To say that Baxter did not share the enthusiasm for Labour’s effort to build a New Jerusalem in England’s green and pleasant land and accept austerity as the necessary price is an understatement. [He] made it clear that he considered the new government’s program of guaranteeing full employment, providing increased opportunities and a more egalitarian society through

high taxes, nationalizing industries, and allocating resources as totally misguided and destructive of the intended result.”

Scene-shifting changes were taking place in Canada as well, indeed even inside *Maclean’s*, though Prof. Thompson discusses the latter only in passing. From 1925 to 1950, the magazine was edited, nominally or otherwise, by Arthur Irwin, a Liberal nationalist of strong views (he wouldn’t allow Norman Bethune’s name to appear in his pages). He was succeeded by Ralph Allan, who was famously a writers’ editor, who brought along an entire new generation of staff members such as Pierre Berton, Peter Gzowski, Peter Newman, Christina McCall and Robert Fulford. But Mr. Allan resigned in 1960 in a contretemps with the publisher, Floyd Chalmers (who was as a young editor of the *Financial Post* in the early 1930s had sent crooked stockbrokers to prison). It was the best of times, it was the worst of times — in any event, different times, newer times. Beverley Baxter seemed an embarrassing hold-over from a simpler era.

He wrote one last London Letter. “What he omitted was more significant than what he included. His only reference to the Commonwealth and Empire and the imperial dream was the recollection that during his first association with Beaverbrook, ‘To the embarrassment of many Englishmen, we beat the Empire drum on all possible and even impossible occasions.’ Even the way he expressed this confirmed his recognition that the imperial era was over as well as his acknowledgement that Beaverbrook’s newspapers had not had much effect on an Empire economic union between Britain and Canada.” He could only express the hope that in “the distant future these London Letters will throw some light on the story of Great Britain in those years of war and peace.” Prof. Thompson adds: “Although he still regarded himself as a Canadian, in saying this he was departing as a Briton.”

THE PATRIARCH AS GODFATHER

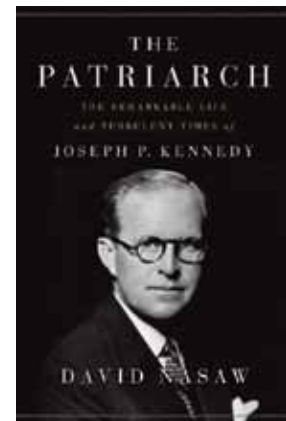
Canada and the End of the Imperial Dream deals briefly with Beverley Baxter’s fractious relationship with his occasional golfing buddy, Joseph P. Kennedy, the paterfamilias of the American political dynasty. Mr. Kennedy served as United States ambassador to the Court of St. James’s beginning in January 1938. Like Mr. Baxter, and indeed Lord Beaverbrook, he was opposed to America becoming involved in the world war that everyone



USS *Missouri* fires a salvo from its 16-inch guns at targets near Chongjin, North Korea.

knew was coming. The others, of course, changed their minds, but Mr. Kennedy remained an isolationist and indeed a “defeatist.” He was replaced in October 1940 after (Prof. Thompson’s words) “fleeing home from the Blitz and declaring that democracy was doomed in Britain and probably in the United States” as well.

There is a great deal more to learn about the incident in *The Patriarch: The Remarkable Life and Times of Joseph P. Kennedy* (Penguin Canada, \$42) by David Nasaw, whose previous biographies have been of other titans — Andrew Carnegie and



William Randolph Hearst. Indeed, about 20 per cent of this 800-page work deals with its subject’s brief, disastrous and altogether improbable diplomatic career, but the book as a whole is seldom less than fascinating, given that Mr. Kennedy was, to choose a phrase with care, such an extraordinary scoundrel.



UNDERWOOD & UNDERWOOD STUDIOS

Joseph P. Kennedy, when he was president of the Columbia Trust Company.



Biographer Doris Kearns Goodwin determined that Kennedy had an affair with actress Gloria Swanson when she discovered he was personally filling out her income tax returns for her.

He was, of course, an Irish Catholic from Boston, which is to say a Democrat as well, who was determined to transcend what he believed was his outsider status. Capitalism was the tool he used to free himself and his ambitions. Early jobs in banking provided knowledge on which to build, but we can only imagine where he got the courage for some of his shenanigans.

He was a master of leverage — and also of some activities that became illegal only later.

He and his cronies would acquire, on credit, big chunks of a nondescript stock and trade it back and forth amongst themselves until the market took notice, driving up the price. Then they would dump the shares at the right moment. In the early days of Hollywood, when there were many studios rather than a few big ones and they weren't all in Los Angeles, he made one fortune by egging on the process of rationalization, creating RKO. The testimony of Meyer Lansky and others to the contrary, Mr. Nasaw can find no evidence that Mr. Kennedy made another fortune in bootlegging. Rather, following the end of Prohibition, he became a "liquor wholesaler" with lucrative arrangements to import spirits from Scotland and Canada. He preserved his wealth during the Depression. According to folklore, he got out of equities after overhearing a "shoeshine boy" giving someone a stock tip. In a sweetheart deal shortly after the Second World War, he bought the Merchandise Mart in Chicago, which was then the world's largest office building (though not for much longer, as the Pentagon would soon take that title).

During the First World War, Mr. Kennedy managed a shipyard and thus got to know the assistant secretary of the navy, Franklin D. Roosevelt. He nourished the connection, giving a great deal of money to Mr. Roosevelt's presidential campaign in 1932 and raising even more. President Roosevelt appointed him the first chairman of the new Securities and Exchange Commission, remarking privately that it takes a crook to catch crooks. Mr. Kennedy then outdid himself in aiding the president's 1936 re-election campaign and when it was over, asked to be made secretary of the treasury. When such an appointment proved out of the question, he held out for the London ambassadorship. James Roosevelt, the president's son, would remember that when his father heard the suggestion, he "laughed so hard he almost toppled from his wheelchair."

Not only was Mr. Kennedy's experience in foreign relations mainly in importing whisky, he was also, in Mr. Nasaw's words, "among the least diplomatic men in Washington" — someone who "spoke his mind, got into fights with cabinet members [...], had no patience for ceremonial events or occasions, was possessed of a fierce temper and a foul mouth" and despised the British as only the Irish dias-

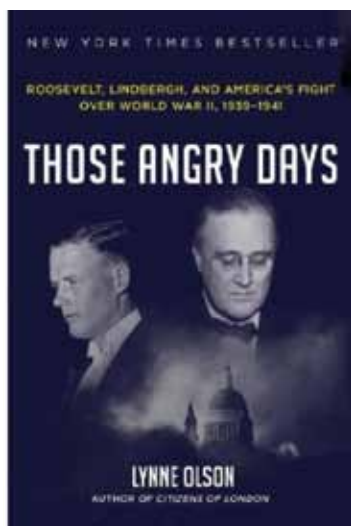
pora could do.

The Patriarch is an authorized biography, sanctioned (but not censored) by the Kennedy family. The author obtained free access to all the Joseph Kennedy papers at the JFK presidential library at Harvard. Many of them still reposed in the attic of the Kennedy family home at Hyannis Port when presidential historian Doris Kearns Goodwin was writing her 1987 book, *The Fitzgeralds and the Kennedys*, on which Mr. Nasaw draws for interviews with people who have died in the intervening years. It was Ms. Goodwin, by the way, who seemed to settle beyond a reasonable doubt the question of whether Joseph Kennedy had a long affair with actress Gloria Swanson. She did so by discovering that Mr. Kennedy, in his years as head of the SEC, was personally filling out Ms. Swanson's income tax returns for her.

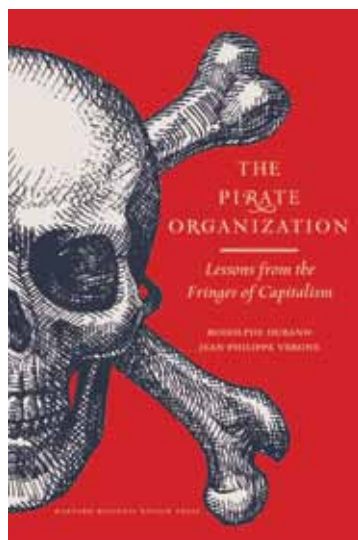
In brief, the most intriguing part of *The Patriarch* is the thorny question of Mr. Kennedy's efforts to keep the United States out of the Second World War. The facts of the case invite comparison with aviator Charles Lindbergh, "the most famous man in America." Mr. Lindbergh's father, a member of Congress, had stoutly opposed U.S. participation in the First World War on simple isolationist grounds. The son's position differed in important ways. In the 1930s, he and his wife sought voluntary exile in Europe, where he became friendly with some Nazi leaders. Returning to the U.S. in 1939, he became the spokesman for the America First movement, which had anti-Semitic leanings. But he ditched those associations after Pearl Harbor. The story is told in *Those Angry Days: Roosevelt, Lindbergh, and America's Fight over World War II, 1939-1941* by Lynne Olson (Random House of Canada, \$35). It's a book that might profitably be read alongside Philip Roth's novel, *The Plot against America* (2004), an alternative-history fantasy in which Mr. Lindbergh steals the White House from President Roosevelt in the 1940 election and establishes a philo-Nazi government.

BOOKS IN BRIEF

Nassim Nicholas Taleb, the Lebanese-American businessman-turned-philosopher, became famous for his 2007 book, *The Black Swan*, once its predictions of a global economic catastrophe quickly turned out to be accurate. His new work, *Antifragile: Things That Gain from Disorder* (Random House of Canada, \$33), argues that the rigidity of strong central governments makes them brittle and prone



to danger. By contrast, governments, businesses and other institutions built on flexibility not only absorb big unexpected changes, but have the potential to profit by innovating their way through other people's chaos. This sounds simple enough, even simple-minded, but the author slowly constructs a sophisticated and complex hypothesis, examining abundant examples. For instance, Switzerland works as well as it does largely because of its decentralized cantonal system of government, absorbing the outside world's blows like a building designed to survive earthquakes. Yet metaphorical earthquakes



— periods of disorder — are essential to the author's concept of anti-fragility. He cites Silicon Valley as a place where disorientating change is the raw material of success. Overall, however, he believes that the United States is heading in the wrong

direction in this regard. Not enough confusion and instability in the U.S.? Who would have thought?

A book that bears a strange coincidental kinship to Mr. Taleb's is *The Pirate Organization: Lessons from the Fringes of Capitalism* (Harvard Business Review Press, US\$25.50) by two professors of strategy, Rodolphe Durand of Paris and Jean-Philippe Vergne of London, Ont. Published originally in French, their book is partly a quick survey of how pirates organized themselves professionally and socially during the so-called golden age of piracy in the 17th and 18th Centuries. On this level, it's much less useful and interesting than Peter T. Lesson's work of 2009, *The Invisible Hook: The Hidden Economics of Pirates* (still available from Princeton University Press, US\$24.95). But Profs. Durand and Vergne then go on to praise the way that the piratical impulse finds expression today — not so much for its own sake as for the example it sets for business and society. They give a great deal of space in their little book to computer hacking and cyber-piracy, not as criminal activities, but as demonstrations of speed, resiliency, ad hoc organization, market creation, free trade, and other components said to comprise a certain kind — the glamorous kind — of entrepreneurship. A clever book, but one I suspect sounds still more so in the original language.

EVEN MORE BRIEFLY

Canadians have been disproportionately represented in the field of obituary-writing. Alden Whitman, the *New York Times* obituary editor made famous by Gay Talese, was from Nova Scotia; David



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Twiston Davies, the long-time necrologist of the *Daily Telegraph* in London, was born in Montreal and began his newspaper career in Winnipeg. Sandra Martin of the *Globe and Mail* extends this tradition nobly, as evidenced in her collection of greatest hits, *Working the Dead Beat: 50 Lives That Changed Canada* (Anansi, \$29.95).

In the 1960s and 1970s, liberal authors published numerous admiring books about guerrilla fighters past and present. The conservative writer Max Boot views the subject from the other end of the political spectrum in *Invisible Armies: An Epic History of Guerrilla Warfare from Ancient Times to the Present* (Penguin Canada, \$37 cloth). He puts one foot after another, walking us chronologically through such careers as those of T.E. Lawrence, Mao

Zedong, Orde Wingate, Fidel Castro and a great many others.

A vaguely similar change in direction attaches to *The Great Game 1856–1907* by Evgeny Sergeev (Johns Hopkins University Press, US\$65). The title phrase, coined by Rudyard Kipling, refers to the military, diplomatic and economic shadow-war between Britain and czarist Russia to colonize, more or less, parts of Central Asia in the late 19th Century. Previous books on the subject in English have been written from the British side, most notably by the prolific Peter Hopkirk. Prof. Sergeev, who heads the Twentieth Century Socio-Political and Economic Problems Centre at the Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of World History — whew, what a title — sits on the opposite side of the table.



The Silk Road, that ancient commercial trade route that linked Europe to India and what the British still call the Far East, is an even more popular subject for students of Central Asia. Susan Whitfield's *Life on the Silk Road*, still in print as a University of California Press paperback, remains perhaps the most engaging short work on the subject because it is a series of narratives about composite Silk Road travellers. By contrast, a new title — *The Silk Road* by Valerie Hansen (Oxford, US\$34.95) — stands out because it draws heavily on recent archeological findings.

In *Give Me Shelter: The Failure of Canada's Cold War Civil Defence* (UBC Press, \$32.95 paper), Andrew Burtch of the Canadian War Museum goes into a deep underground policy bunker, so to speak, in researching Ottawa's efforts in civil defence planning, which began shortly after Hiroshima, but were becoming somewhat risible by the time of the Cuban missile crisis.

Finally, it's always fun when someone scours the classics, whether by Lao-tzu, Sun-tzu or Machiavelli, for gems of wisdom that can be applied to contemporary politics through repeated blows from a heavy wooden mallet. Doing so with works from Roman times is particularly popular in Britain, but Philip Freeman, an American, is behind *How to Run a Country: An Ancient Guide for Modern Leaders* (Princeton University Press, US\$12.95). It is a new translation from the Latin of Marcus Tullius Cicero (born BC 106), a statesman of the Roman Republic. It follows on the heels of Prof. Freeman's previous work, *How to Win an Election: An Ancient Guide for Modern Politics*. MPs take note.

George Fetherling is the author of *The Writing Life: Journals 1975-2005* (McGill-Queen's University Press).

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Korea: Yin-Yang Cuisine



MARGARET DICKENSON

With the mention of the word Korea, tastes of smoky, sweetly marinated thin slices of grilled beef (*bulgogi*), extraordinary barbecued ribs (*kalbi*), memorable soya sauce-scented noodles with various vegetables (*japchae*) and fire-hot kimchi, all compete simultaneously in exciting my appetite. Ambassador Cho Hee-yong recognizes my enthusiasm and admits that Korean food is playing an important role in promoting

his country internationally.

South Korea is a peninsula projecting southward from the northeastern part of Asia. Surrounded on three sides by water and with a 70-percent mountainous topography, South Korea has access not only to a wealth of marine products, from fish and seafood to seaweed, but also to an extensive variety and boundless quantities of herbs, sprouts, shoots, mushrooms and wild vegetables.

Korean food is all about harmony and nature, and respecting the interaction between man and nature. Indeed, there are five cardinal colours in Korean cuisine that represent the five elements — white (metal), blue (wood), red (fire), yellow (earth) and black (water). These elements play a role in the principles governing the yin-yang theory used to explain how supposedly contrary forces are interconnected and interdependent in nature. Korean cuisine combines coloured ingredients believed to enable efficient absorption of nutrients by the body and to stimulate

one's appetite through the five essential tastes: sweet, sour, salty, hot and bitter. A perfect example of this five-colour, five-taste formula, is *bibimbap* (a one-dish meal composed of beef and an assortment of stir-fried vegetables that are added to rice and seasoned with red pepper sauce).

Koreans regard food not only as a source of energy for the body, but also as nourishment for the mind and soul. Their diet is rich in fermented foods, vegetables, grains, soups, teas, traditional and non-traditional liquors. Soya sauce, soybean paste and red pepper paste rank as essential "fermented" condiments, giving a depth and complexity of flavour characteristic of so many Korean dishes.

Not too many years ago, what a charming sight it was to see in backyards of Korean households a series of covered earthenware jars, specially fired to allow proper breathing and fermenting, containing homemade varieties of these pungent condiments, plus various types of *kimchi*. But this custom is rapidly vanishing due



Korean Kalbi (grilled beef ribs)

LARRY DICKENSON

to the growing trend of apartment living, the availability of excellent commercially fermented products and even high-tech kimchi refrigerators with different compartments, each offering a choice in the degree/strength of fermentation. As the ambassador explains, “A kimchi refrigerator is an indispensable appliance in a Korean home.”

There are hundreds of varieties of kimchi, depending on the region and season; however, it is primarily prepared in the fall to be consumed during winter months when fresh vegetables are limited and more costly. The most common combines nappa cabbage with white radish, red pepper, garlic, scallions and salted fish.

Kimchi and other fermented and preserved foods are staples in the Korean diet, highly valued as seasonings and as prevention against diseases and obesity. It's also lauded for giving one a youthful complexion and boosting one's immune system.

The ambassador and his wife point out that during the avian flu outbreak a decade ago, Korea was the only Asian nation to escape the virus completely. Kimchi got credit for that, which prompted an immediate and high demand for its export to neighbouring countries. Non-fermented condiments and spices include black pepper, red chili flakes, mustard, onion, garlic, leeks and ginger.

Indeed, many Koreans consider certain foods medicine. For example, pine nuts, like pine trees, are synonymous with longevity, while balloon flower root, white pear, white radish and ginseng sooth sore throats. Salted shrimp eaten with pork (a perfect example of the yin-yang theory) breaks down fat. To combat the stress of summer heat and loss of stamina (physical and sexual), the choices are numerous: ginseng chicken, abalone, eel, carp, bone marrow, pig kidney and dog. Yes, dog (not the breeds Westerners keep as pets) is still consumed, but only by a very small portion of the population.

Korean cuisine has a reputation for being healthy and well balanced; it features fresh and natural ingredients and healthy cooking techniques that preserve nutrients and reduce fat and calorie intake. Cooked vegetables are steamed or lightly blanched while fish, meat and chicken are most often steamed, boiled or grilled. Deep-fried foods are rare.

Rice, another staple of a Korean's diet, is served at every meal. “It's not a meal without rice,” insists the ambassador's wife, Mrs. Yang-lee Cho. Rice-based por-



Margaret Dickenson prepares her own kimchi.

ridges (flavoured with chicken, pumpkin, red bean and abalone), noodles (buckwheat, sweet potato and wheat), soups and stews are also popular in Korea. The country's cuisine also includes thin soups (known as *yuk*) as well as thick soups (*tang*), which would be considered as a main dish when individual bowls of rice are poured into them. Seaweed soup is referred to as “birthday soup,” which toasts good health and fortune or “post-child-birth soup” (to replenish body nutrients). Stews are cooked and served in glazed earthenware pots.

While the most common stews would be those made with kimchi, soybean paste and tofu, the most dramatic is the mushroom hot pot (*jeongol*), which is often cooked on a small brazier at the table.

Side dishes feature grilled meats and vegetables, steamed/boiled meats, seafood, fish, vegetables stuffed with fillings, raw fish and seafood (usually dipped in chili paste or soya sauce and served with lettuce leaves), savoury pancakes (often with chopped or whole seafood), fresh vegetables (seasoned with vinegar, chili powder and salt), blanched/cooked vegetables (tossed with soya sauce, sesame oil and garlic or chili powder), pickled and fermented vegetables.

According to tradition, depending on how many side dishes were offered to individuals (besides rice, soup, kimchi and various sauces), the dining table would be called a three-, five-, seven-, nine- or 12-dish (*cheop*) table with the 12-dish table being considered “royal cuisine.”

Although these old dining traditions

are returning (notably in high-end restaurants) as economic development accelerates, everyday meals have been simplified and are usually served family-style, with dishes placed on the table and people helping themselves. Dessert doesn't exist in Korea's food culture. Rather, Koreans eat fresh fruit at the end of a meal. But Mrs. Cho notes that they enjoy steamed sweet rice cakes and light, crispy traditional cookies and sweets with tea between meals.

The culinary heritage of various Korean cuisines has evolved over thousands of years. Regional cuisines developed first. Royal courts (which existed for nearly 2,000 years and lasted until 1910) indulged in a cuisine of their own and over time assembled regional specialties for the royal family's meals. As royal kitchen maids (drawn from all parts of the peninsula) retired, they took these specialties and other royal recipes back to their home regions, blending royal cuisine with their own. What is known as Korean temple cuisine (using organic seasonal vegetarian ingredients) originated in Buddhist temples more than a millennium ago. This cuisine, too, was influenced by retired royal kitchen maids, many of whom became temple nuns and brought palace recipes and cooking techniques with them. Temple cuisine is considered to be the basis of Korea's vegetarian cooking. It was during the last century, when modern transportation linked various regions closer together, that a national Korean cuisine took hold. More recently, there has been a resurgence of Korean royal cuisine, with the Korean government proudly designating it as an important, intangible cultural asset.

Some of Korea's other specialties include ginseng chicken and ox-bone soups, spicy monkfish casserole, leek pancakes, stuffed squid, spicy grilled chicken, pine nut-mushroom rice, dumplings, abalone porridge, various hot-pot recipes, seafood earthen-pot stew, cold buckwheat noodles, sliced raw fish, seasoned broiled octopus, oysters and stone-pot rice.

Inexpensive street food, featuring snacks from steamed rice rolls, instant noodles and fritters to sugar-filled pancakes and roasted chestnuts, are sold from carts and, at night, from dimly lit tents.

Please try my version of *kalbi* (grilled beef ribs), one of the ultimate choices among beef dishes. The recipe uses lean prime ribs cut crosswise into thin “bone-in” strips that resemble strips of bacon. Bon appétit! Or as they say in Korea, *Ma-shikeh Duseyyo!*

Korean Kalbi (Grilled Beef Ribs)*Makes 4 servings*

2.2 lbs (1 kg) lean beef ribs,* cut crosswise into bone-in slices (1/3 inch or 0.8 cm)
 1 can cola drink**
 1 to 2 tsp (5 to 10 mL) liquid smoke***

Marinade

1/3 cup (80 mL) soy sauce
 1/4 cup (60 mL) granulated sugar
 2 tbsp (30 mL) sesame oil
 3 tbsp (45 mL) medium-dry sherry
 1 1/2 tsp (8 mL) lemon juice
 1 1/2 tsp (8 mL) minced fresh garlic
 1/2 tsp (3 mL) peeled and grated fresh gingerroot
 1/2 tsp (3 mL) crushed black peppercorns
 1/4 tsp (1 mL) Korean red chili flakes
 1/3 cup (80 mL) finely sliced green onions
 3 tbsp (45 mL) each of peeled and finely grated fresh pear (Korean) and apple

1. Soak ribs in cold water for 2 hours, changing water and rinsing ribs regularly. Drain well.
2. Soak ribs in cola for 1 hour; drain well.
3. To make the marinade, whisk together soya sauce, sugar, sesame oil, sherry, lemon juice, garlic, ginger, crushed black peppercorns and chili flakes. Stir in green onions, grated pear and apple.
4. Place beef rib slices in a single layer in large, glass baking dishes or plastic containers. Drizzle evenly with half of the marinade. Turn slices over and drizzle beef with remaining marinade. Cover and refrigerate for several hours or up to 24 hours, turning beef occasionally.
5. Allow rib slices to come close to room temperature. Brush one side of rib slices lightly with liquid smoke before placing slices in a single layer on a well-oiled pre-heated grill (or grill pan).
6. Cook for 2 minutes per side, turning once.

* Available at Korean grocery stores as well as some large local grocery stores and Asian food markets. They are referred to as LA (i.e., Los Angeles) or Miami beef ribs. Once marinated, they are perfect for grilling.

** The "cola" acts as a tenderizer and enhances absorption of spices.

*** Available at specialty food stores and some large grocery stores.

Margaret Dickenson wrote the award-winning cookbook, *Margaret's Table — Easy Cooking & Inspiring Entertaining*. (www.margaretstable.ca)

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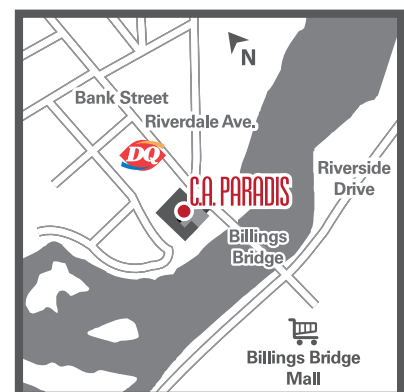


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Korea: The forgotten war

By Anthony Wilson-Smith

When is a war not a war? For the Korean War, the answer is not always clear. This year marks the 60th anniversary of the ceasefire of a war that not everyone describes that way. It had ambiguous beginnings, more than 20 participating countries, and still no formal end. But some things are evident.

This year, The Historica-Dominion Institute is commemorating this sometimes-forgotten, but still-resonant period of our recent history, and Canada's role therein. Our country sent more than 25,000 members of our military to the Korean "theatre." More than 500 Canadians died, and another 32 became prisoners of war. For the United States, more than 33,000 members of their military died in combat, along with thousands of others dead or unaccounted for.

Yet even at the height of conflict, U.S. president Harry S. Truman referred to it as a "police action." This was despite the fact his country had the largest presence of any of the coalition that joined South Korea against the Communist regime of North Korea and its supporters.

Before 1945, the Korean peninsula was, for 40 years, part of Japan's empire. Following Japan's defeat, Soviet forces moved into the north half of the Korean peninsula, and American forces settled in the south. After the United Nations created a commission to oversee elections, a vote was scheduled in 1948. But only the south was allowed a free vote, so on Aug. 15, the democratic Republic of Korea (South) was established, along with the separate Communist Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North). Over the following year, the Soviets and Americans withdrew uniformed forces while leaving "advisers" in place. The result, rather than peace, was civil war. For its part, North Korea had the backing of the new Communist government of China and that of the Soviet Union.

North Korean forces invaded South Korea on June 25, 1950. The UN Security Council asked members to help South Korea, and more than 20 nations responded. At the Battle of Kapyong in April 1951, Canadian forces held their position against fierce enemy attacks. In appreciation, the 2nd Battalion of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry re-



Canadians stationed in Anyang, South Korea.

ceived the United States Presidential Unit Citation. Other awards won by Canadians during the Korean conflict included nine distinguished service orders, 33 military crosses, eight distinguished conduct medals and more than 50 military medals. Members of the Royal Canadian navy and the Royal Canadian Air Force also played important roles in the overall conflict, and more than 5,000 Canadian women were recruited for service.

Long before the 1953 armistice, there were attempts to end the fighting. In 1951, Syngman Rhee, leader of South Korea, and Kim Il-Sung, his North Korean counterpart, rejected pressure to make peace because each believed he could defeat the other. Two more years of fighting followed before a ceasefire agreement that included the establishment of boundaries and the release of prisoners of war. Even after fighting ended in July 1953, Canadian troops served in the area until August 1957. Some of their stories from 1950 to 1957 are vividly described at thememo-

ryproject.com. Those interviewed include army veterans Sam Carr, André Therrien, and Frank Smyth; Claude LaFrance of the RCAF; and navy veteran Peter Fane.

Today, the Korean conflict stands as the first example of a "limited" war in the 20th Century. It marked the initial test of the United Nations' collective security principle. Formally, North and South Korea are still at war — as we are reminded by recent threats by North Korea. For Canada, the price of engagement included the loss of lives and many wounded, along with the financial expense of prosecuting a war. It showed that the country was prepared to support causes it believed were right — and provided the basis for the Korean community of Canadians today, as well as the strong friendship between Canada and South Korea. For better along with worse, the war that not everyone describes that way continues to have impact.

Anthony Wilson-Smith is the president of the Historica-Dominion Institute.

The score on wine scores



PIETER VAN DEN WEGHE

As with any purchase, many factors can impact the decisions of a wine buyer. For some, it's the attractiveness of a label, the variety of choice or even their own cultural bias. Complicating matters for many is the perception that, to purchase a delicious wine, one needs a stupefying amount of knowledge. What is seen as the pretentiousness of wine culture implies a strong and intimidating hold on its secrets. For would-be wine consumers, this often sadly leads to a hesitancy and reluctance to dive in, experiment and try new things.

Though not a new invention, wine scores, hold the promise of allowing wine buyers to easily and quickly ascertain what is a high-quality wine for a price they are willing (or can be convinced) to pay. Besides the written commentary of a review, wine scores, particularly those given on a 100-point scale are hugely influential on those who produce wine and those who sell it. Wine critics have significantly changed the very landscape of the wine market by altering not only the favoured expressions of wine, but the style, price and intent of wines. As a result, the power of publications that carry these reviews and of the individual wine critics has grown tremendously. Deserved or not, Robert Parker is so influential, his name is synonymous with a style of wine. Many, particularly his detractors, feel that a dense, extracted wine with a soft mouthfeel, low acid, hefty alcohol and generous flavours of oak is "Parkerized."

Despite the success of the 100-point system in wine media, reviewers themselves admit scores cannot reveal every aspect of a wine and that the wine's true personality and traits are better illuminated through the written review. That said, the appeal of a single number to gauge the potential value of a wine is obvious. A bottle on the shelf in a wine shop that has a large 90

next to it will almost always grab the attention of a consumer better than a lengthy text extolling its virtues.

And what of the wine that's rated 89? Is it that significantly different? Or, is the wine boasting a rating of 100 worth its often-significant price? Whether a wine is rated on a 100-point scale by Robert Parker, James Halliday, Stephen Tanzer, Allen Meadows or anybody from *The Wine Spectator* magazine, only wine drinkers can decide for themselves if a wine is plonk or biblically profound. The same goes for wines scored out of 20 by Jancis Robinson, out of 5 by *Decanter* magazine or three "bicchieri" by Gambero Rosso. Only an individual wine drinker can decide whether a wine is worth the money because wine tasting is completely subjective. While much can be agreed upon, there is no substitution for one's personal opinion about a wine. Certainly, few wine drinkers, even committed ones, have either the time or the resources to taste and research wine on the same level as a professional reviewer. Wine drinkers should read the reviews of the wine they drink and see if the opinions make sense to them. Eventually, they'll find a critic whose tastes and views are similar

enough to their own that they can trust their evaluations. Scores may be quick, but they are not the whole story of a wine.

A few tasty and well-reviewed wines at Vintages can be a good starting point to see if reviews ring true for your palette.


First, we have Catena's 2011 Chardonnay from Argentina's Mendoza region. Neal Martin gave it a score of 90 and found it to be "a taut, focused Chardonnay" that "is well-crafted and complex for its price point." It's available for \$19.95.

Also costing \$19.95 is Rolf Binder's 2010 Hales Shiraz from South Australia's Barossa Valley. Lisa Perrotti-Brown reviewed it as a wine with "a core of ripe black plums and black cherries overnotes of licorice, tar and dark chocolate plus a whiff of cloves." She also gave it a score of 90+.

Manzone's 2007 "Le Gramolere" Barolo scored a 93+ from Antonio Galloni. He felt the wine "shows gorgeous translucence, plenty of aromatic delineation and fine balance" and "is highly attractive." The most expensive of the trio, this Barolo costs \$51.95.

Pieter Van den Weghe is wine director at Beckta dining & wine.

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A home full of Chilean charm

By Margo Roston



ALL PHOTOS BY DYANNE WILSON

The Chilean Ambassador's residence was built by Ottawa land developer Harold Shenkman and his wife, Belle.

Looking from the street at the Rockcliffe home of Chile's ambassador, it's hard to reconcile what you see with the flamboyant atmosphere that greets you inside. The rather severe two-storey redwood and yellow brick exterior hides a warm *joie-de-vivre* inside.

Built by Ottawa land developer Harold Shenkman and his wife, Belle, a well-

known arts philanthropist, the Frank Lloyd Wright-style home was completed in 1953 and stands out on Mariposa Avenue among the more traditional Tudor-style homes nearby. The house was a family affair, built by Harold and designed by cousin Stanley Shenkman, a Toronto architect who's remembered fondly by son Bill, a developer and philanthropist in Ot-

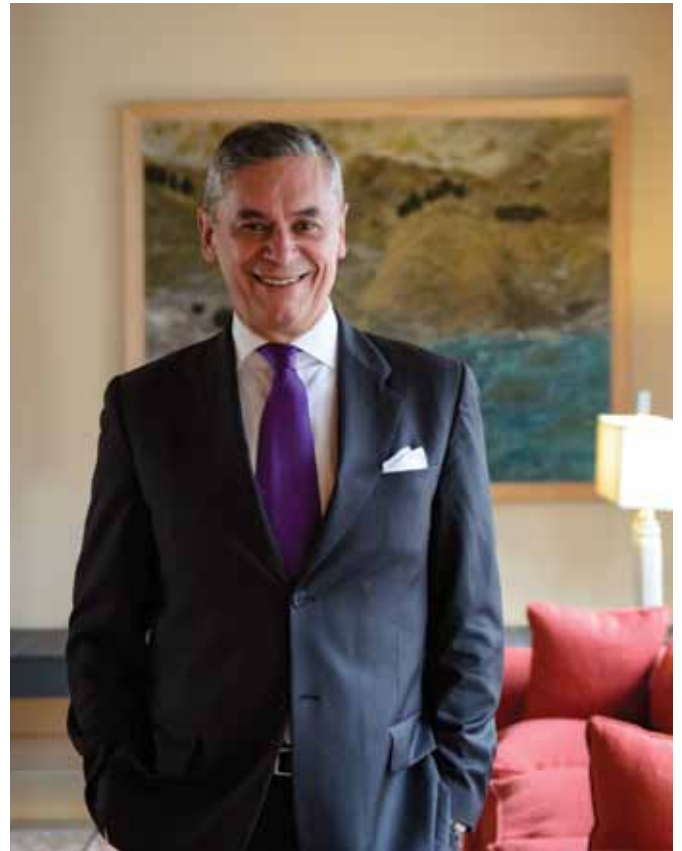
tawa and a resident of Monaco.

The government of Chile bought the house as a residence for its ambassador in 1977. A 2001 renovation was carried out under the watchful eye of a Chilean designer.

The result is a riot of colour with Latin American flair. Wall paint and fabrics come mainly in yellows and reds that vary



Even the hallway in the residence is colourful.



Ambassador Roberto Ibarra is a gracious host in the residence he describes as a comfortable place that feels like “home”.



PHOTO BY DYANNE WILSON

Mr. Ibarra's office is fitted with a large desk and a red leather sofa and chairs.



An interesting rounded wall is a focal point in the front room, which also features patio doors to the garden.



The dining room is well used, and guests are always invited to try Chilean wine.

from soft to bright in hue. Eye-catching accent walls of peacock blue pop up in several rooms as well.

“It’s a very cosy house,” says Ambassador Roberto Ibarra. “I feel well in this house. Sometimes, in a huge embassy, you feel like you are living in a hotel lobby. As well, this is a nice place to entertain.”

You see why when you step from the foyer, with its warm and welcoming tiles, into a large reception room with a curved wall at its entrance and a sloping wood ceiling. One side of the room has a long row of windows and at the far end, a yellow brick fireplace and mantel for warmth in cold weather. The room’s length allows for three attractive seating areas as well as a view of the garden and a wooden deck. The walls and fabrics are red and yellow and the furnishings invite you in to share the space.

The garden is “not too big, but perfect for us,” the ambassador says. At some point, the yard was severed and the back part sold to neighbours.

Down the hall from the entrance is Mr. Garcia’s office, fitted with a large desk and a red leather sofa and chairs. A brown wool Chilean poncho thrown over the sofa is an item of apparel the ambassador is only too happy to model over his business suit.

A beautifully curved pine staircase leads to the second floor where a cosy family room is centred among four bedrooms. The master bedroom suite is on the main floor.

The comfortable dining room is separated from the front hall by a smoked-glass wall, while the other walls are covered with paintings of birds in all their finery and a Chilean landscape. It is a well-used room.

“We love to show off our food and wine,” says the ambassador. “It’s part of the Chilean culture to entertain.”

With a Chilean cook on the premises, guests usually find themselves starting off an evening with a pisco sour, a traditional South American drink popular in Chile and Peru. There is always wonderful Chilean sparkling wine, and treats of ceviche and empanadas. A beef or lamb main course and dessert are all matched with the appropriate Chilean wine. If you are in luck, the wine list will include a red Carménère wine, made with the Carmine grape, almost extinct in Europe, but thriving in Chile.

The house is full of paintings, many by Chilean-Canadian artists. A large painting of the Port of Montreal is by Humberto Pi-



Poinsettias aren't just for Christmastime in Chile. This one sits under a work called *Paisaje Natural* by Chilean artist Matilde Huidobro.

nochet, who has lived in Quebec for many years. A stunning work of leaves and flowers is by Ottawa artist José Mansilla and there are landscapes by Chilean painters Jorge Caballero, Alfredo Melossi and Armando Lira.

After three years in Ottawa, the dapper bachelor is fascinated by how quickly the seasons change. "It's very beautiful in spring," he says. A horseback rider by preference, he finds the winters too cold for riding, but other than that, says he has adapted to winter.

"I was told by the Canadian ambassador to Chile to embrace the winter," he laughs, "so I have learned to live outdoors."

While he may have accustomed himself to life in a northern climate, when he is inside his home, the ambassador can feel the warmth of the southern colours of Chile, taste the spices and favourite foods of home and, of course, always have on hand the famous wines of his country.

Margo Roston is *Diplomat's* culture editor.

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Celebration time

A listing of the national and independence days marked by countries

July		
1	Burundi	National Day
1	Canada	Canada Day
3	Belarus	Independence Day
4	Rwanda	Liberation Day
4	United States	Independence Day
5	Venezuela	Independence Day
7	Nepal	Birthday of His Majesty The King
10	Bahamas	Independence Day
11	Mongolia	National Day
14	France	National Day
14	Iraq	Republic Day
20	Colombia	National Day
21	Belgium	Accession of King Leopold I
23	Egypt	National Day
28	Peru	Independence Day
30	Morocco	Ascension of the Throne
August		
1	Benin	Independence Day
1	Switzerland	National Day
3	Niger	Proclamation of Independence
6	Bolivia	Independence Day
6	Jamaica	Independence Day
7	Côte d'Ivoire	Independence Day
8	Macedonia	Independence Day
10	Ecuador	Independence Day
11	Chad	National Day
15	Congo	National Day
15	India	Independence Day
17	Gabon	National Day
17	Indonesia	Independence Day
19	Afghanistan	National Day
24	Ukraine	Independence Day
25	Uruguay	National Day
31	Malaysia	National Day
31	Trinidad and Tobago	National Day
September		
1	Slovak Republic	Constitution Day
2	Vietnam	Independence Day
7	Brazil	Independence Day
15	Costa Rica	Independence Day
15	El Salvador	Independence Day
15	Guatemala	Independence Day
15	Honduras	National Day
16	Mexico	National Day
18	Chile	Independence Day
21	Armenia	Independence Day
22	Mali	Proclamation of the Republic
23	Saudi Arabia	National Day



The U.S. celebrates its Independence Day with a huge party July 4.



Canada Day on Parliament Hill

NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION

New arrivals

Julio Antonio Garmendía
Ambassador of Cuba



Mr. Garmendía has a degree in Russian literature and translation and a degree in political science.

He joined the foreign service in 1975 and soon became head of the department of state's committee on economic cooperation. His first posting came in 1982 as deputy economic counselor in the Soviet Union. On returning to the foreign ministry, he became deputy chief of the bureau for co-operation with the USSR. From 1994 to 1999, he was minister-counsellor and deputy head of mission in Russia.

In 1999, he was head of section at the central committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and then, in 2004, became ambassador to Ukraine. In 2008, he returned to his previous job with the Communist Party.

He is married and has two daughters.

Norihiro Okuda
Ambassador of Japan



Mr. Okuda completed a law degree at Tokyo University before joining the foreign service in 1975.

In 1979, he was posted to Egypt. He returned to the ministry's Middle East and African Affairs divisions before becoming deputy director of energy affairs and later serving in a similar position at the ministry of transport, management and co-ordination agency.

In 1987, he went to the UN in New York as first secretary and three years later was sent to Saudi Arabia. He then became legal co-ordinator at the foreign ministry before becoming director of a Middle East division and then of the grant aid division. In 1997, he became counsellor in Washington and then head of chancery. In 2004, he became ambassador to Afghanistan and then to the UN. He was ambassador to Egypt before being posted to Canada.

Gian Lorenzo Cornado
Ambassador of Italy



Mr. Cornado was born in Belgium but studied political science in Rome and joined the Italian foreign service in 1985.

His posting as ambassador to Canada is nostalgic — Ottawa was his first posting, as first secretary between 1987 and 1992. From there, he became consul in Toulouse, before returning to Rome. He then went to Italy's mission at the UN in New York.

From 2000 to 2004, he returned to Canada as consul general and permanent representative to the International Civil Aviation Organization in Montreal. He then spent a couple of years at headquarters before becoming ambassador to the UN for 10 months and then deputy chief of mission in Washington. Before returning to Ottawa, he was chef de cabinet to the minister of foreign affairs.

Micheline Abi-Samra
Ambassador of Lebanon



Ms. Abi-Samra studied Lebanese law and French law at Saint Joseph University in Beirut and completed a degree in ancient and modern philosophy from the Ecole Supérieure des Lettres in Beirut.

Her varied career has included postings as ambassador to Bulgaria, co-ordinator of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, director of the centre for legal affairs at the foreign ministry, counsellor and deputy chief of mission at the UN in Geneva and counsellor and deputy chief of mission in London. As well, she has been consul-general in Los Angeles, press counsellor at the presidential palace and foreign ministry, political counsellor for congressional affairs, and second secretary for consular affairs in Washington and attaché at the embassy in Vienna.

Ms. Abi-Samra speaks Arabic, English and French.

Francisco Suárez
Ambassador of Mexico



Francisco Suárez has a law degree from Mexico and a master's from the University of Cambridge, King's College.

Until recently, he served as secretary-general of the Colosio Foundation — the think-tank of Institutional Revolutionary Party. He also served as vice-president of the Mexican Council on Foreign Relations (2008-2011).

He began his career at the Bank of Mexico, where he served as general manager of international economic affairs (1976-1980). He was financial director at Nacional Financiera (1980-1982); undersecretary of finance and public credit (1982-1988) and director-general of Banco Mexicano Somex, now Banco Santander (1988-1992).

Twice he was a federal congressman (deputy), and chaired the finance committee (1994-1997). Later, he was ambassador to the OECD (1997-2000), where he headed the budget committee.

He has taught economic policy and international relations at three universities and has published works and co-authored several books.

Simon Tucker
High Commissioner for New Zealand



Prior to coming to Ottawa, Mr. Tucker spent 10 years working in leadership roles within New Zealand's dairy industry, including one with Fonterra Cooperative Group, New Zealand's largest company and the world's leading exporter of dairy products. While with Fonterra, he spent several years based in Washington D.C.

Mr. Tucker has also worked in governance and advisory capacities, including as a board director of Auckland Tourism, Events and Economic Development, the company that oversees economic growth for New Zealand's largest city.

Before he joined the dairy industry, he spent 12 years at New Zealand's foreign ministry, with postings to Tehran and Washington. He also advised New Zealand's trade minister.

He is married to Penny and they have three school-age daughters.

Maria Ligor
Ambassador of Romania



Maria Ligor joined Romania's foreign service in 1996. Before coming to Canada, she served as ambassador-at-large and special representative for the promotion of democracy.

Between 2006 and 2011, she was ambassador to Spain and permanent representative to the World Tourism Organization. From 2003 to 2006, she was director-general for European affairs in Bucharest.

Prior to that, she worked at Romania's delegation to the EU in Brussels (1998-2002), in Luxembourg (1997), and, at headquarters at the political planning directorate, the directorate for the EU, and the directorate for Western Europe.

She has a master's from the College of Europe in Bruges and a diploma of advanced studies in political sciences from the Université Libre de Brussels. She is fluent in English, French and Spanish, and has basic knowledge of Italian. She is married and has one daughter.

José Fernando Moreira da Cunha
Ambassador of Portugal



Mr. Moreira da Cunha studied political science at the University of Belgrano in Argentina and history at the University of Porto.

He became attaché to the secretary of state after joining the foreign service in 1980. Shortly thereafter, he was posted to Argentina and then served as chargé d'affaires at the mission in Peru for a year. He was posted to the Congo in 1989 and returned to headquarters in 1991. There, he became division chief for the Middle East and Maghreb section and was then appointed as consul-general in Caracas in 1994. He became permanent representative to the EU in 1998 and secretary of state in 2002.

In 2005, he was sent to Iran as ambassador and four years later to Algeria as ambassador. He has decorations from several countries, including Tunisia, Morocco, Argentina and Zaire (now Congo).

Howard Ronald Drake
High Commissioner for the United Kingdom



Prior to this post Mr. Drake was currently British high commissioner to Jamaica and was previously ambassador to Chile.

His foreign-service career has focused on political and commercial work, including heading the U.K.'s inward-investment operation in the U.S. and earlier assignments in Singapore and Chile. In Singapore, he was first secretary and head of chancery between 1992 and 1995. In Chile the first time, he had a position as second secretary. He was posted to Los Angeles between 1981 and 1983, as vice-consul.

At headquarters in London, Mr. Drake worked on European Union affairs, strategic exports, counter-proliferation, and was also assistant director for human resources.

Mr. Drake is married to Gill Drake and has one son and one daughter.



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Second secretary

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Lamri Ben Lamara,
Counsellor

Angola
Romualdo Rodrigues Da Costa,
Attaché

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Calsey Willmore Johnson,
High Commissioner

Barbados
Joanna Esme N Benn-Griffith,
First secretary

Burkina Faso
Balkissa Zarani,
Attaché

Ibrahim Ben Harouna Zarani,
Counsellor

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Li Chang,
Second Secretary

Zengquan Liu,
Second Secretary

Cuba
Miraly Caridad Gonzalez,
First secretary

Hungary
Monika Horvath,
Counsellor and consul

Sandor Mihaly,
Attaché

Iraq
Zena Hameed Yousif Al-Dujaili,
Second secretary

Japan
Yoshinao Okabe,
Second secretary

Kazakhstan
Almas Makulbekov,
Third secretary

Libya
Abdalla M. Sh. Abuzed,
Counsellor

Wall Suliman
Attaché

Saleh.G.S. Yahmed,
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Military and air attaché

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Abubakar Idris
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First secretary

Russia
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First Secretary

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Attaché

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Attaché

Omar Zakaria O. Barnawi,
Attaché

Sénégal
Daha Mamadou Ngaido,
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Attaché

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Reita Gabrielle Toussaint,
Minister-counsellor

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Julia Elizabeth Nolan,
First secretary

United States
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Assistant attaché

Kory Jon Benz,
Coast Guard Attaché

Matthew Scott Gordon,
Second secretary

William Jeffrey Hastings,
Assistant attaché

Nicole Denise Sobotka,
First secretary


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1. The embassy of Haiti hosted a concert and reception at the Canadian Museum of Civilization to mark the 210th anniversary of the Haitian flag. From left, Haitian Ambassador Frantz Liautaud, Cuban Ambassador Julio Garmendía Peña and his wife, Miraly Gonzalez. (Photo: Sam García) 2. Lucy Turk curtsies at a tree-planting ceremony at the Rideau Hall hosted by Gov. Gen. David Johnston and his wife, Sharon, during the visit of Estonian President Toomas Hendrik Ilves and his wife, Evelin. (Photo: Ulle Baum) 3. Nancy Ndiaye Ngom, ambassador of Senegal, hosted a national day reception at Ottawa City Hall. (Photo: Ulle Baum) 4. To mark International Women's Day, Kawther Aabed, wife of the chargé d'affaires of the Saudi embassy, hosted a dinner at St. Elias Banquet Centre. Shown is student Sara Almutairi, with a painting by Awatif Alkeneibit. (Photo: Ulle Baum) 5. Narinder Chauhan, deputy high commissioner of India, Meg Beckel, CEO of the Museum of Nature, and Norwegian Ambassador Mona Elisabeth Brother at the opening of Extraordinary Arctic at the Museum of Nature. 6. Kuwaiti Ambassador Ali Al-Sammak hosted a national day reception at the Château Laurier. He's shown with Conservative MP Harold Albrecht. (Photo: Sam García)



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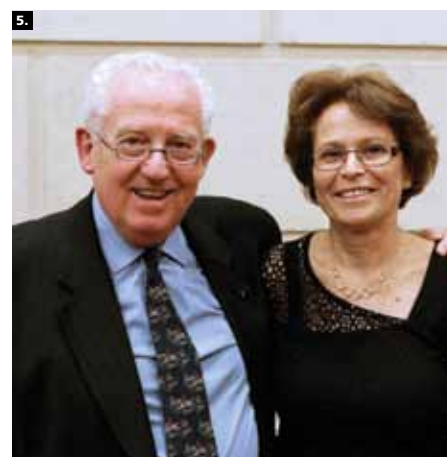
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5.

1. The Greek embassy, together with the Greek diaspora, celebrated Hellenic Independence Day at City Hall. Greek folk dancers performed. (Photo: Sam Garcia) 2. Korean Ambassador Cho Hee-yong spoke at Carleton University as part of the Ambassadors Speaker Series March 13. He's shown with Young-Hae Lee, president of the Canada Korea Society. (Photo: Frank Scheme) 3. German hockey player Sara Seiler and German Ambassador Werner Wnendt met at an event prior to the beginning of the Women's World Championships in Ottawa. Seiler represented Germany in her second home, Canada. (Photo: Embassy of Germany) 4. Turkish Ambassador Tuncay Babali and his wife, Emine, hosted a fundraiser for the Friends of the NAC Orchestra. (Photo: Lois Siegel) 5. Senate Speaker Noel Kinsella hosted a farewell reception for Israeli Ambassador Miriam Ziv, shown here with Senator David Smith. (Photo: Neil Valois) 6. The International Women's Club of Ottawa held its walk and talk program in Stittsville, complete with tour guides dressed in period costume. Lis Moeljawan (of Indonesia), tour guides Tracy Donaldson and Sarah Rathwell, Gail Everest, Helen Carrigy-McCaffrey, Gina Mazzolin and Kate Briscoe.



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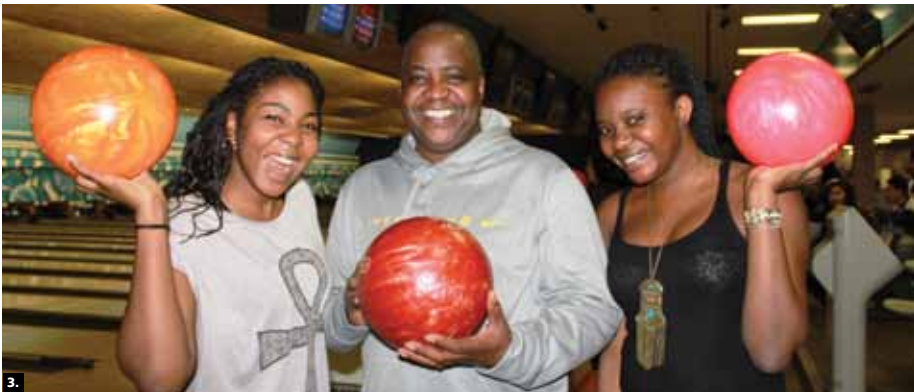
1. Israeli Ambassador Miriam Ziv hosted a reception to celebrate her country's independence day at the Château Laurier. From left, Eliaz Luf, deputy head of mission, Citizenship Minister Jason Kenney, Labour Minister Lisa Raitt and Ms Ziv. (Photo: Sam Garcia) 2. Trinidad & Tobago Ambassador Philip Buxo, right, hosted a reception to welcome his country's prime minister, Kamla Persad-Bissessar, middle. They had a ribbon-cutting for the opening of the science and technology exhibition shown at the mission. (Photo: Sam Garcia) 3. The Latin American heads-of-mission, with the Canadian Film Institute, held a Gala at Library and Archives Canada to launch the 17th Latin-American Film Festival. From left: Spanish Ambassador Carlos Gomez-Mugica Sanz, Argentine chargé d'affaires Jose Nestor Ureta, Peruvian Ambassador Joe Antonio Raymundo Bellina, Uruguayan Ambassador Elbio Oscar Rosselli Frieri and Ecuadoran Ambassador Andres Horacio Teran Parral. (Photo: Ulle Baum)



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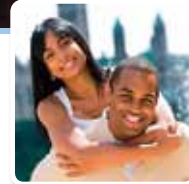
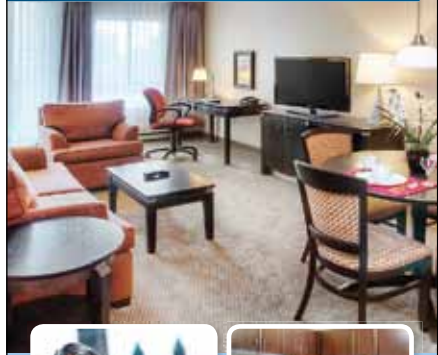
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3.

1. Swedish vocal group Kongero presented three concerts in Ottawa and Gatineau. From left: Singers Anna Wikenius, Lotta Andersson, Swedish Ambassador Teppo Tauriainen, singers Emma Bjorling and Lovisa Liljeberg. (Photo: Ulle Baum) 2. The 78th Fraser Highlanders Pipe & Drum Corps and Honour Guard hosted a reception to welcome Macedonian President Gjorge Ivanov, middle left. Also in attendance, from left, Bruce MacRae, Macedonian Ambassador Ljuben Tevdovski and Grete Hale. 3. The Canadian Federation of University Women's diplomatic hospitality group hosted its first bowling event at McArthur Lanes. Zambian High Commissioner Bobby Mbonji Samakai, centre, took part with his daughters, Victoria (left) and Precious (right). (Photo: Ulle Baum)

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The land once known as Formosa

By Jennifer Campbell



JAN VAN BENTHEM

The night market in Taiwan is a haven for culinary adventurers.

Today's Taiwan was once called Formosa, a name that means "beautiful island" in Portuguese and Latin.

You'll soon see it deserves its former name should you come to visit this country, with its colourful past and continuing status as a region that acts as an independent, democratic state, though it's only formally acknowledged as such by 23 countries worldwide.

First, the obvious: Taiwan, which is about the size of Switzerland or the Netherlands, with a population of 23 million, is a breakaway republic of China. Beijing

claims sovereignty over the island and denies its existence as anything other than Chinese territory. In the past, it has threatened military force if Taiwan formally or officially declares itself sovereign. But for the most part, and particularly since the election of Taiwan's more conciliatory president, Ma Ying-jeou, the two live side-by-side and tolerate each other, if only in the interest of profitable trade.

A little history: Until the 17th Century, the island was mostly inhabited by Taiwanese aboriginals. China's Qing Dynasty conquered it in 1683, but the defeat of that

dynasty in 1895 led to Japanese rule. After the Second World War, the country came under Chinese nationalist control.

When the Communists took over the mainland in 1949, millions of people fled to Taiwan and established a government using the 1947 constitution drawn up for all of China. A few years later, democracy took root and by the 1980s, the country was on its way to prosperity as one of East Asia's economic "tigers." That moniker is dearly held among the proud, productive and efficient Taiwanese people. Nowhere is that more evident than in Taipei, a capi-



DREAMSTIME

Mengjia Longshan Temple was built in 1738, destroyed in the Second World War and then rebuilt.



JUSTIN HWANG

Sun Moon Lake is one of the most calming places in the country.

tal with all the hustle one imagines in any Asian hot spot.

While in Taipei, visitors will want to go to the Mengjia Longshan Temple. Among the highrises in this busy section of Taipei, the temple is a calming place in spite of the jam of worshippers and tourists who pack in to see its architecture, maybe light some incense and say a prayer.

Built in 1738 by settlers from China, sections of the temple have been rebuilt many times after the ravages of earth-

quakes and fires. It was destroyed in 1945 by American bombers who thought the Japanese were using it to hide armaments. The Taiwanese restored it as a classic piece of Taiwanese architecture where Buddhists and Taoists alike converge.

Across the street, the city's oldest night market invites culinary adventurers to sample oddities to their hearts' content. Vendor carts line the pedestrian (scooters excluded, of course) streets offering everything from roasted chestnuts to the

infamous durian fruit (awful smell; great taste) and, perhaps most exotic of all, snake soup. Restaurants here often have a snake charmer out front with microphone and headset, who calls to passersby to try this Taiwanese delicacy. In case you were wondering, snake tastes like chicken.

Visitors will also want to visit the National Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall, a white monolith whose peaked roof rises 75 metres and recalls the Lincoln Memorial in Washington. It also features a bronze sculpture of the late leader, who died in 1975. Its surrounding blue tiles, white walls and red flowers reflect the country's white, blue and red flag. Inscriptions include one that says "ethics, democracy and science," while another says "the purpose of life is to improve the general life of humanity."

This well-known gathering place was once the site of demonstrations that helped push Taiwan into full democracy during the 1980s and 1990s.

A final destination — particularly for shoppers seeking high-end designer fashion as a side-benefit of touring — is Taipei 101, a landmark skyscraper and a symbol of the new Taipei.

Finished in 2004, Taipei 101 (101 floors above ground, five under) was the world's tallest building until the opening of the Burj Khalifa in Dubai in 2010. Because of its LEED certification, however, the 50-metre-tall building still claims an important distinction as the world's "tallest green building."

An outdoor observation deck and an enclosed information section at its top provide a narrated history of the building and its features. Lower down, there's shopping of all kinds, boutiques from the world's biggest fashion houses and a multi-level bookstore with solid wood stacks — the kind that are rarely built anymore.

Going further afield on this island, a visitor encounters beautiful Sun Moon Lake in central Taiwan's Nantou County. Mountains unfold like rose petals around the lake, and are often covered in morning mist. No wonder couples get married here, up to 100 of them all on the same October day. The ceremony takes place high in the surrounding hills in front of an infinity pool whose water appears to fall off the edge. This custom may seem a bit of a public spectacle but the government pays for the couples' lodging and the post-ceremony reception, so it's a cheap way to tie the knot. Practical people, the Taiwanese.

The lake, beautiful but puny by Ca-



MOFA, ROC (TAIWAN)

Taipei 101 was, until 2010, the world's tallest building.



MOFA, ROC (TAIWAN)

Taroko Gorge is one of eight national parks in the country.

nadian standards, is the largest body of water in Taiwan at eight square kilometres and is surrounded by temples, including the Ci En Pagoda built by Chiang in memory of his mother.

Also worth a visit is Taroko National Park on the east side of the island, south of Taipei. One of eight national parks in the country, its main attraction is the Liwu River's Taroko Gorge, with limestone and marble cliffs that came into being more than 200 million years ago. Raft trips on the river give you a chance to spot some of the jade that supplies a market in neighbouring Hualien.

Hualien has a humanitarian side as precious as the jade. It is home to the Tzu Chi Foundation, a Buddhist medical centre founded by Dharma Master Cheng Yen, a nun some call the Mother Teresa of Asia. In 1970, Cheng Yen and 30 followers began by saving the equivalent of two U.S. cents a day from their grocery money to help the poor of Eastern Taiwan. Today, the foundation has 10 million members with chapters in 47 countries. It is one of the first to show up when tragedy strikes around the world, and it often sticks around to see rebuilding efforts to fruition.

Hualien is a short flight from Taipei (about \$250 return) while the best way to Sun Moon Lake is by high-speed train to Taichung for approximately \$20, with an additional bus ride to the lake.

Enough Taiwanese people speak English for a visitor to get by without Mandarin, but a decent translation app isn't a bad idea for backup. In a pinch, friendly Taiwanese muster up enough body language and smiles to work through your questions.

Jennifer Campbell is the editor of *Diplomat* magazine.

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Costa Rica: a natural wonder

By Luis Carlos Delgado Murillo



COSTA RICAN TOURISM BOARD

This active volcano at Arenal Volcano National Park is one of the most visited volcanoes in Costa Rica.

They say the best things come in small packages and Costa Rica is a real-life example of small-package delights. The Central American country sits between two oceans and helps bridge North and South America, a geographical position that has ensured natural riches and cultural diversity.

Costa Rica houses close to 5 percent of the world's biodiversity within only 51,000 square kilometres. This natural treasure is protected by a system of na-

tional conservation areas, which comprise 26 percent of the country's area. Moreover, the country was ranked fifth in environmental performance in 2012 according to the Environmental Performance Index (Canada came 37th).

It's no surprise then that Costa Rica is a top destination, especially for ecotourism. As well, its political, social and economic evolution set it apart from the rest of the region. It is strongly committed to democracy and human rights. It has been one

of the most stable democracies in the developing world, without dictatorships or coups since 1949, when Costa Rica made a voluntary decision that no other country had ever undertaken: to abolish its army and declare peace to the world.

Instead of spending resources on weapons or soldiers, it has invested in education, health care, infrastructure, roads, telecommunications, strengthening democracy and fundamental freedoms.

These investments have built a country

that is educated, healthy, and green. It has one of the best human development ratings in the developing world, with universal health care and educational systems that are pillars of national stability. For more than 100 years, education has been mandatory and we invest 8 percent of our gross domestic product (GDP) on it. At the same time, we invest almost 11 percent of our GDP on health care.

Costa Rica is also one of the safest countries in Latin America and offers a high quality of life to its residents. So tourism, one of its largest industries, attracts more than two million visitors annually. Tourism contributed close to 12.3 percent of the GDP in 2012, generating more than 92,000 jobs. If we also consider jobs indirectly supported by the industry, the contribution was 11.4 percent of total employment last year.

The number of Canadian travellers who visited the country last year — 130,000 in all — made up more than 6 percent of Costa Rica's total visitors. After the United States, Canada is the most important tourism revenue source, generating close to \$140 million in U.S. funds annually. Many tourists decide to move to our beautiful country permanently, currently more than 13,000 of them Canadian. This community fosters investment, promotes tourism and enhances cultural relations.

In 2012, an open skies-type air travel agreement between Canada and Costa Rica came into force. It allows any airline from Canada or Costa Rica to fly as frequently as desired between our countries. Last year, WestJet started regular flights from Toronto to the Daniel Oduber Quiros International Airport in Liberia, the capital of Guanacaste province, about 200 kilometres northwest of the national capital, San José.

What to do when you get here

We have beaches on both coasts and they're easy to reach, with warm water year-round almost everywhere. Each coast offers different shades and textures of sand, including white, yellow, gray and black. The Ecological Blue Flag, a pro-nature award given to several of our beaches, guarantees they are safe and clean.

Should you tire of sunbathing, the forests behind our beaches are teeming with natural diversity, while offshore coral reefs invite divers to explore. Visitors can hike to nearby mangroves, go sport fishing or horseback riding. If that's not enough, Costa Rica has adrenaline aplenty for lovers of adventure. Thrill-seekers can go



COSTA RICAN TOURISM BOARD

Visitors will find this coral reef on the Caribbean coast of Costa Rica.



COSTA RICAN TOURISM BOARD

Tabacón Grand Spa Thermal Resort is a five-star hotel at the foot of Arenal Volcano in the heart of the tropical rainforest. The thermal springs emerge from the volcanic earth, cascading to form waterfalls.



COSTA RICAN TOURISM BOARD

Costa Rica is a bird-watcher's paradise with almost 850 species, including hummingbirds.

zip-lining, rafting, snorkeling, kayaking, and surfing.

According to TripAdvisor last year, Costa Rica is the most popular destination in the world for eco-friendly travellers. With no long distances to tire you out, you can enjoy a zoological and botanical variety found on volcanic slopes, mountain passes, Caribbean and Pacific beaches, dry and tropical rain forests — all within one tiny country. You can hike steep paths in cloud forests, follow expert guides on bird-watching tours and take excursions to hanging bridges.

The country has 20 natural parks, eight biological reserves and a series of protected areas. Among them is Coco Island National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site with a critical marine life habitat, especially for sharks.

Medical tourism has been officially recognized by our government. Impres-

sive health statistics, quality medical services and competitive prices have made Costa Rica a top destination for this kind of tourism. We have first-class hospitals that cover all medical specialties, with legislated patient protection in place. Spas, resorts, recovery centres, plastic and esthetic surgical clinics and health centres are abundant. Many hotels specialize in medical tourism, facilitating a visitor's recovery.

"Ticos" as Costa Ricans are known, are famous for their hospitality, and this is the foundation of our cultural attractions. Ticos know their land is special and try to make visits as pleasant as possible. Cultural diversity emerged as waves of immigrants added to the pre-Hispanic native populations, settling on this land and making it their home. Besides the Mestizo majority, ethnic groups — those of African descent, Chinese, Jews, Lebanese and Ital-



COSTA RICAN TOURISM BOARD

The La Paz Waterfall can be seen from the highway.

ians among others — are part of the mix.

And then there's food. Costa Rican gastronomy is influenced by many cultures and takes advantage of seafood from two oceans, and fertile land supporting tropical fruit, vegetables and beef. Local specialities include *gallo pinto* (rice and black or red beans mixed with onions, red pepper, cilantro and spices), *tamales* (seasoned corn meal with rice, green beans, carrots, meat, chickpeas, plums and olives, covered with plantain leaves), and *arroz con leche* (rice with milk), among many others.

We look forward to welcoming you to Costa Rica and invite you to explore the embassy's website (costaricaembassy.com) as well as the Costa Rican Tourism Board's website (visitcostarica.com) to plan your trip of a lifetime.

Luis Carlos Delgado Murillo is ambassador of Costa Rica.

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